OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016 WWW.OSWESTRYCHRONICLE.COM 60P WHERE SOLD

'Armageddon' scenario would close leisure centre

OSWESTRY'S leisure centre could close if the "Armageddon" scenario of Shropshire Council cuts become reality, authority bosses have admitted.

The multi-million pound centre was opened just five years ago and has become a success story with tens of thousands of people using its swimming pool, sports hall and gym every year.

But the leader of the unitary authority Councillor Malcolm Pate has warned that Shropshire's £1.8 million leisure centres and swimming pools budget could be cut to zero in 2017/18.

The deputy leader of Shropshire Council Steve Charmley, who represents Whittington near Oswestry, said this week he would do everything possible to prevent the closure of the £10 million centre. Councillor Charmley said: "We can not sit back and let this happen.

"The reality of the budget is pretty stark but councillors are already starting to look at alternatives to this Armageddon scenario.

"Closing leisure centres would have huge knock-on effects.

"The leisure centre is supported by other bodies such as Sport England."

The new leisure centre was opened in 2011 by the Duke of Gloucester and in its first month saw usage increase by 17 per cent on the old centre.

It was funded in part by money from the old Oswestry Borough Council, its legacy to the area before it was dissolved to make way for the unitary authority.

Councillor Charmley gave a talk to Oswestry Town Council on Monday when he set out his vision for the local commissioning of services – bringing together organisations and the two tiers of local government to provide services for the area.

● Threat – See Page 4

CHERYL INQUEST TO BE 'FEARLESS'

Report by Sue Austin

A CORONER has vowed a new inquest on teenage Army recruit Cheryl James will be "full, frank and fearless".

The promise was made by coroner Brian Barker QC at the start of a second inquest into the teenager's death – 21 years after the 18-year-old died from a single gunshot wound at Deepcut Barracks in Surrey.

The start of the new inquest this week is a landmark for Cheryl's parents Des and Doreen James from Llanymynech near Oswestry who have been campaigning for two decades for a further investigation into what happened to their daughter.

Cheryl James

Their daughter was one of four recruits to die at the barracks over a seven-year period.

Mr Barker told Woking Coroner's Court in Surrey on Monday that evidence Cheryl may have been sexually abused at the time of her death fell within the scope of the inquest.

He added it was not within the inquest's scope to consider "a wider culture of sexual abuse at Deepcut Barracks, including the sexually inappropriate treatment of female recruits within the chain of command".

MrBarker told the inquest: "This is not a public inquiry into the culture at Deepcut in mid-1990s. This inquest should be a full, frank and fearless investigation into Cheryl's death, but it does not mean the scope is unlimited."

Mr Barker said his ruling would remain under review "as the evidence develops" during the seven-week inquest. Cheryl was undergoing initial training when she was found dead with a bullet wound in November 1995.

Privates Sean Benton, James Collinson and Geoff Gray also died from gunshot wounds at Deepcut Barracks between 1995 and 2002.

High Court judges ordered a fresh inquest into Cheryl's death in 2014 after they quashed an open verdict recorded in December 1995.

Cheryl's father Des was due to give evidence to the inquest today (Thursday).

● Turn to Page 2 and Page 6 for more

Singer-songwriter's school visit is a big hit

Singer-songwriter Martyn Joseph with pupils Lily Reade, Lily Jones, Archie Blackburn and Tom Hotchkiss. Photo: Steve Leath.

PUPILS enjoyed a break from their lessons in favour of some live music from a Welsh folk rock singer.

Woodside Primary School pupils in Oswestry were treated to a guitar-centred set list from singer-songwriter Martyn Joseph, as part of the school's drive to focus children's minds on creativity.

Adam Pugh, the school's head of year three and four, said the pupils enjoyed the gig. "The children had a wonderful time, they really enjoyed Martyn's music and hopefully it broadened their perceptions and opened their minds and showed them they can like all genres of music, not just what's in the top 10," he said.

"Instead of them going out to it, I enjoy bringing live music and cultural experiences to school, that way it's accessible."

Mr Pugh said the performance was the latest in a string from other artists in a bid to inspire pupils. He said: "We have more than 200 pupils at the school who have music lessons every week, and we hope afternoons like this inspire them to focus their energies on showing them what they could become.

"They also get to find out more about the musician and how they got started."

Mr Pugh thanked Mr Joseph for giving up his time to perform for the pupils.

He added: "It's really great that people like Martyn come here and give up their own time to provide our pupils with fantastic experiences like this. Martyn's music is predominantly guitar-based, tough to define but extremely addictive."

CRIME

Teen is charged with conspiracy to commit murder

A TEENAGER has appeared in court after being charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

Telmo Bernardo, from Wrexham, was charged on Friday last week and appeared at Telford Magistrates Court on Saturday morning to be remanded in custody ahead of a date at Shrewsbury Crown Court.

The 18-year-old is charged in connection with an incident in Castlefields, Oswestry on January 23 where a man sustained serious stab wounds.

Another man, 22-year-old Luke Cross, of Mount View in Sutton Coldfield, has previously appeared in court in connection with the stabbing.

He has been charged with one count of conspiracy to commit murder, one count of threats to kill and one count of threatening to cause criminal damage.

He was due to appear at Stafford Crown Court today (Thursday).

A 51-year-old man from Welshpool and a 19-year-old from Wrexham arrested in connection with the case have been released on police bail while inquiries continue.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on the non-emergency 101 number, quoting reference 603s of January 23.

Alternatively, people can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or report online at www.crimestoppers-org.uk

RETAIL

Tesco stores axe 24-hour opening

TESCO is to axe 24-hour opening at its Welshpool store.

Bosses have also decided the Tesco store in Cefn Mawr, near Chirk, will have its hours slashed as part of a cost-cutting programme. The move will see the Welshpool and Cefn Mawr stores close their doors at midnight and reopen at 6am.

Around 400 roles nationwide, in security and self-service till monitoring, will be affected, but job losses are expected to be minimal because the other night-time operations such as deliveries and shelf-stacking will continue as normal.

● Improve – See Page 5

INSIDE

Awards mark community work

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Family relieved by coroner's ruling on daughter's death

Report by Sue Austin

THE family of young Army recruit Cheryl James, who was found dead at her barracks in 1995, have spoken of their relief after a coroner ruled an inquest would examine whether she had been sexually abused before her death.

A long-awaited fresh inquest began on Monday into the death of the 18-year-old who was found with a fatal bullet wound in November 1995.

Cheryl, whose parents Des and Doreen James live at Llanymynech near Oswestry, was one of four recruits to die at Deepcut over a seven-year period amid allegations of bullying and abuse.

Coroner Brian Barker QC told Woking Coroner's Court in Surrey on Monday that evidence Cheryl may have been sexually abused at the time of her death fell within the scope of the inquest.

But it was not within the inquest's remit to consider "a wider culture of sexual abuse at Deepcut Barracks, including the sexually inappropriate treatment of female recruits within the chain of command", the coroner said.

After the hearing, Emma Norton, a lawyer with human rights organisation Liberty which is representing Cheryl's parents said: "The family are very relieved that any allegations of sexual abuse involving Cheryl are going to be properly investigated.

"They are also very reassured by the coroner's statement that he's going to keep an open mind on how those matters progress."

The coroner adjourned the inquest until today (Thursday) to allow new forensic and scientific evidence to be reviewed by all interested parties, including Cheryl's family, Surrey Police and the Ministry of Defence.

Cheryl's father Des is expected to give evidence to the inquest today.

In total, more than 100 witnesses are expected to give evidence during the new inquest.

The inquest will consider whether a third party was involved in her death and what happened on the evening before she died.

The inquest will also address whether there were "shortcomings" with barracks policies on sexual behaviour, supervision of young females, drugs, alcohol and accommodation.

● Tragedy – See Page 6

Lightly bang the drum for the hillfort hug

Hermon Chapel Arts Centre's Barry Edwards gets ready for the lights and drum workshops

A RALLYING call has gone out for people to show how much they love Oswestry's historic hillfort.

Various workshops for people taking part in the Hugging the Hillfort event later this month will be held in Oswestry on Saturday.

The Hermon Chapel Arts Centre in Oswestry will host this Saturday's workshop from 10.30am until noon.

The workshop will be held ahead of a host of events on the weekend of February 13-14 to celebrate the iron age hillfort of Old Oswestry, culminating in a procession around the hillfort by supporters with drums and lights.

Diana Baur, who is helping to organise the hug, said: "If hillfort huggers, adults and children, would like to make a home-made drum and a simple light to carry at the hug procession, we can help. All they have to do is bring along a tin or a plastic pot. There will also be drumming workshops by musicians, Ricky Wilson and Barry Edwards."

The campaigners are fighting plans for housing in the shadow of the ancient monument as well as celebrating its history.

Last year's event attracted more than 450 people and was supported by a national social media campaign #hugyourheritage created by the Council of British Archaeology. This year the hug weekend is being supported by a number of local artists who are involved in a series of exhibitions under the banner "Ahh!! Artists Hugging the Hillfort". The Old Oswestry hug weekend on February 13-14 will also include a heritage symposium, an evening of music and performance, craft workshops and art installations.

The hillfort hug will take place from 1pm on Valentine's Day, ending with a procession along the ramparts with lights and drums.

Full details are available at www.facebook.com/OldOswestryHillfort or by ringing (01691) 652918.

School shuts fields because of dog fouling

A SCHOOL is closing its public playing fields because of dog owners failing to pick up their pet's mess.

Bosses at Oswestry School have confirmed they will close Maes-y-Llan playing fields amid concerns for pupil safety due to dog walkers not picking up after their pooches.

Headteacher Julian Noad said the decision was a "shame" but that pupil and staff safety is priority.

He said: "Sadly it's time for a clampdown on public use.

"This has been going on for quite some time now and it just can't carry on. It is a danger to children's health but not only our children, we have children visiting from other schools playing matches here.

"It's a shame because it is the minority, we do have so many considerate and sensible people that walk their dogs here but we have to put pupil and staff safety first."

Mr Noad said to add to the frustration, staff members were regularly having to remove plastic bags by hand containing dog mess which are left on the fields or in the hedgerows, which also increase the risk of infection.

Public use of the fields will change with effect from April 5. Although the fields will be closed, the public will still be able to use the existing footpath between the gate from Penylan Lane and another to Trefonen Road opposite Broomhall Lane.

Residents hit by phone issue

ALMOST 100 people in Oswestry are without telephone landlines after a major fault in an underground cable.

The problems could be being caused by the wet weather according to Openreach, which maintains and installs the local telephone network.

Among those who have been without their landlines for the past two weeks is an 82-year old woman whose phone is her link to family and friends.

The woman's daughter Tessa Herrell, who lives in Surrey, said she had been unable to telephone her mother for a fortnight and has had to rely on relatives living close by to check on her.

A spokesman for Openreach said the problems affecting 90 customers were caused by a fault on a section of underground cable. He said repairs had been "time-consuming" and apologised to those affected.

Expert to help hospital reduce waiting times

Report by Sue Austin

AN improvement regulator will be appointed to work at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital to help significantly reduce waiting times for routine operations.

Government watchdog Monitor said that a timetable has not yet been drawn up for when and how the outside regulator will oversee an action plan for the hospital.

But it said that talks were already taking place with bosses at the hospital.

Monitor wants to see waiting times cut and improvements made in the accuracy of the trust's reported data on waiting times.

The independent regulator will also help the trust develop and implement an "effective and robust recovery plan" to prevent similar problems from happening again.

The hospital's acting chief executive John Grinnell said the hospital board saw the move as an opportunity to address "once and for all" problems with waiting times and apologised to patients.

Monitor launched its investigation into the trust running the hospital last summer amid concerns too many patients were waiting longer than the 18-week national target for treatment.

Frances Shattock, regional director at Monitor, said: "We are taking action at Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust because patients are waiting too long for treatment and because the trust needs to improve how it is run. The trust is working to make the right improvements, but we have stepped in to oversee quick and effective change."

Monitor says it will continue to scrutinise the trust's performance and may take further regulatory action if necessary.

Mr Grinnell said: "We have worked very closely with Monitor and other external partners throughout this process to get to the bottom of these issues and begin the task of establishing a sustainable recovery plan.

"We have been affected by problems related to our delivery of access targets for a number of years now, and we see this as an opportunity to sort the issue once and for all.

"We have already strengthened our leadership with the appointment of two new executive directors, as well as a new chief executive – Mark Brandreth – who will join us in April."

Little Saints invited for a kickabout

Saints' assistant manager Scott Ruscoe, his children Florence and Caleb, and Jason Brindley

A SUCCESSFUL football club is scouting for the new talent of the future – among the very tiniest of their fans.

The New Saints of Oswestry has launched new football activity sessions this month for children in the one to four year old age bracket.

The indoor sessions are billed as a fun introduction to sport. Little Saints hour long sessions started on Tuesday this week at the club's headquarters at The Venue, Park Hall. Jason Brindley, the head of the TNS Foundation, said the coaching scheme was aimed at those of pre-school age. "We felt there was a gap in the market for parents who are football-mad themselves and want their children to follow their passion or for those that are looking for an activity to keep their little ones entertained and make new friends," he said.

Meanwhile, such has been the success of the Mini Saints football sessions for four to seven-year-olds that TNS is introducing a second class.

The Wednesday afternoon session regularly gets groups of up to 30 children. Now there will also be a Saturday morning Mini Saints from 9am to 10am. Jason added: "The additional class provides an alternative to the Wednesday class or can be used as an extra training opportunity to improve skills before children reach the age of seven and go on trial for an academy place in the under-7s pre-academy."

Sessions cost £3.50 each. Anyone interested in signing up can email jason.brindley@tnsfc.co.uk

Among those introduced to the Little Saints by TNS assistant manager Scott Ruscoe were his children Florence and Caleb.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Peace group to travel to capital

A PEACE campaign group will take a coach of members to a national demonstration.

The Oswestry Coalition for Peace group has booked a coach to the CND Stop Trident demonstration in London on February 27.

Spokesman Derek Williams said: "Many people from all walks of life and from across the political spectrum are opposed to replacing Trident which will divert much-needed resources from essential spending elsewhere."

The coach will leave Oswestry's Oak Street Car Park and pick up at Shrewsbury's Abbey Car Park in order to be in London by noon for the march to Trafalgar Square.

The fare will be £25 and needs to be paid in full by February 14.

Call (01691) 650527 for details.

Body is found at property in town

INVESTIGATIONS are being carried out after a woman's body was found in a property in Oswestry.

The woman was discovered in a house in Oakhurst Road on Tuesday at about 5pm.

Sgt Scott Barnes from Oswestry police said police attended at 5.20pm and the woman was confirmed dead at the scene.

He said: "The case has been referred to the coroner."

Sgt Barnes added: "There are no suspicious circumstances but we will carry out investigations on behalf of the coroner.

"The lady's next of kin has been informed but formal identification hasn't taken place yet."

Man denies he raped teenage girl

A MID Wales man has denied two charges of rape and one charge of sexual assault upon a teenage girl.

Defendant Christopher Wayne Edwards, 40, of Gilmour Court, Welshpool, appeared at Mold Crown Court yesterday on Friday last week to answer the allegations. At the court he pleaded not guilty to all three counts.

Judge Niclas Parry bailed him pending trial. The trial is due to take place at Caernarfon Crown Court on May 31.

Come to sunny Llandudno this summer

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin is organising its annual holiday for older people at the Queen's Hotel, Llandudno from 9 - 16 July 2016. The hotel is on the seafront, near to shops and cafes and has two lifts.

This holiday is for older people who find it hard to go on holiday independently and any older person living in Shropshire may apply. (Suitable for wheelchair users but you must provide your own carer).

Accommodation	£355
Transport	£40
Daily trips	£1 per excursion

A limited amount of financial assistance may be available.

Terms and conditions apply -for full details and application forms please get in touch,
Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin
3 Mardol Gardens, Shrewsbury SY1 1PR
t 01743 233 123
e enquiries@ageukstw.org.uk

Application forms will be sent out on 26 February to all who have requested them.

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Pools and museums under threat from council cuts

Report by Dominic Robertson

LEISURE centres and museums are likely to close under proposals agreed by Shropshire Council unless new management can be found.

Cost-cutting plans include "some draconian and unthinkable things", warned council leader Malcolm Pate. They include the current £1.8 million leisure centres and swimming pools budget being cut to zero in 2017/18.

Under the plans the museum and tourism budget will also be cut to zero, from £800,000. The council's financial strategy for the coming three years was agreed by its cabinet at Shirehall.

Councillor Stuart West, who represents both leisure and tourism services, said he would be concentrating on finding ways to prevent closing the services.

He said: "I am determined to look at alternatives to closing museums and leisure centres."

Councillor Pate, who represents Albrighton, said the budget was "the worst case scenario, but also the only scenario".

He said: "None of us want to do it, I find it very unpalatable to even suggest doing these things."

Under the budget proposals in 2017/18 there will also be a cut of £1.9 million to an adult services budget for two contracts providing early intervention and prevention support for individuals and families.

Councillor Lee Chapman said the cuts could be a "backwards step" in the care provided for vulnerable adults.

He said: "I am very seriously concerned that by the time we get there those will represent a backwards step in the way we look to deliver services in adults and having to look at making cuts around the prevention and early intervention work will be potentially more damaging for budgets going forward." However, Councillor Chapman also warned that he would be prepared to go over budget to ensure people remain safe.

He said: "I am that serious that we will overspend our budget if necessary."

The cuts will also see bus routes at risk of being scaled back with a plan for £1 million of cutbacks in 2017/18, while arts and community development will find their budgets reduced to zero, along with parks.

Opposition councillors Alan Mosley, leader of the Labour Group, and Roger Evans, leader of the Liberal Democrat group, both launched stinging criticisms of the plans.

Councillor Mosley said: "Generally speaking this is the saddest meeting, the most depressing meeting we have ever had in this council. It is like that because this represents a catastrophe for local government."

Residents tell of their big priorities

PROTECTING vulnerable children is the most important council-run service to shield from spending cuts, a Shropshire-wide survey has found.

Residents also want to protect education and services to help older people and vulnerable adults. The next most important services were environment, transport, employment, leisure, housing and health.

Nearly half of the 2,200 peopVorvegwho responded to the Shropshire Council-run Big Conversation survey said they were in favour of raising council tax to protect key services. Some 34 per cent were against the idea and 15 per cent were unsure. The least important three out of 12 options were running the council itself, safety regulation and protection for businesses, consumers and communities, and registration of births, deaths and marriages.

Clive Wright, chief executive for Shropshire Council said: "We've had a fantastic response to the first phase of the Big Conversation. It's been really encouraging to see so many local people and organisations from across a wide spread of geographic and social economic backgrounds.

"Although we are still analysing the results of the survey, initial findings highlight where we need to go and explore further.

"We will keep everyone updated on our progress and continue to encourage people to get involved in the Big Conversation to help us take forward the financial strategy and budget proposals for the next four years."

Paint with words at gallery

Owen Sheers will be one of the headline acts at this year's Oswestry LitFest

ARTISTS are being invited to get their inspiration from stories, poems, letters, songs and all other forms of the written word for an exhibition to be staged as part of Oswestry LitFest.

The Painting with Words open exhibition will be held at the Willow Gallery, Oswestry, to coincide with the LitFest. It is due to open on March 5 and will run until April 16.

Tereska Shepherd, museum curator, said: "Has your art been inspired by a literary association? Perhaps a song, poem, book, letter from a loved one. This exhibition is open to all media, and is really to celebrate the influence and inspiration of literature and language on the visual arts."

Admission to the exhibition will be free. The main LitFest event will run from March 17 to 20, with events taking place throughout the town. One of the highlights of the event will be the return of the Wilfred Owen Lecture, held on March 18 – the birthday of the World War I poet soldier, who was born in Oswestry.

This year's lecture will be given by novelist, poet, playwright and broadcaster Owen Sheers at Holy Trinity Church, Roft Street, at 7pm. Tickets cost £12.

To submit work to the exhibition contact the gallery in Willow Street or call (01691) 657575 for an application pack. For tickets to the Wilfred Owen Lecture visit Booka in Church Street or call (01691) 662244.

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Tesco's hours cut set to 'improve shop experience'

Report by Naomi Penrose

TESCO bosses say the decision to axe 24-hour opening at its Welshpool store is aimed at "improving the shopping experience for customers".

The retail giant has announced the round-the-clock opening at the Welshpool store is to come to an end.

Bosses have also decided the store in Cefn Mawr, near Chirk, will have its hours slashed as part of a cost-cutting programme. But superstores in Shrewsbury and Telford have survived the changes and will remain open through the night under the newly-announced plans. The move will see the Welshpool and Cefn Mawr stores close their doors at midnight and reopen at 6am.

They are among 76 branches around the country affected by the changes.

Around 400 roles nationwide, in security and self-service till monitoring, will be affected, but job losses are expected to be minimal because the other night-time operations such as deliveries and shelf-stacking will continue as normal.

At present 400 stores around the UK open for 24-hours a day, a practice which was first introduced in 1996.

Closing to customers will allow staff more time to replenish stock on the shelves, meaning more products are available and the stores are tidier when they reopen in the morning.

Other branches near to Shropshire that will be affected include one in Hereford, Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, and at Brownhills near Walsall.

Stores in Ellesmere, Ludlow, Whitchurch and Bridgnorth are already closed overnight. Tesco's retail director Tony Hoggett said: "We're always thinking about how to serve our customers better in each of our stores and with the growth of online grocery shopping, these stores saw very few customers during the night.

"It makes much more sense for colleagues at those stores to focus on replenishing the shelves instead and making sure they're fully stocked when they open their doors at 6am.

"We'll continue to make changes in store in ways that will make shopping at Tesco a better experience for our customers, at the times they want to shop."

The changes will come into effect between March 14 and April 11.

Tesco said the move was "a better use of time and resources", and would allow it to make savings it could pass on to customers –a key consideration for the country's biggest grocer as it continues to battle for market share amid a fierce supermarket price war.

Crunch talks will look at phone faults

CRUNCH talks are being planned between BT bosses and a Mid Wales politician after a surge in complaints over telephone and broadband faults.

Russell George, assembly member for Montgomeryshire and the chair of the National Assembly's cross party group on digital communications, has been spearheading the campaign for improvements in phone and broadband connectivity in Mid Wales.

Some people in his constituency have faced a wait of more than two months for a phone connection.

Now he is planning talks with Alwen Williams, the new director of BT in Wales, and Clive Selley, managing director of BT's broadband roll-out division Openreach, to address the issues.

After receiving a flurry of complaints in recent weeks, Mr George said: "I am keen on meeting with the new director of BT Wales to ascertain exactly why there has been an increase in phone and broadband related complaints.

"I appreciate that we have been experiencing some unusually wet weather lately which may be a reason for delays in resolving faults but I am keen on seeking definitive answers for frustrated residents who find themselves cut off."

Mr George said in the coming weeks, he will be welcoming Mr Selley, the organisation responsible for telecoms infrastructure, to the National Assembly where he will raise these issues.

Refit marks 30 years of trade

Mark and Steve McArdle with loyal customer Joan Roberts

A FAMILY butcher is celebrating 30 years in business in the same town – and has thanked its loyal customers, some of who have been regular shoppers since day one.

Steve McArdle of Chirk re-opened its doors following a major refurbishment of its shop.

The firm commissioned the 10-day refit to celebrate its 30th year of trading in the town.

Owners Steve, Sandra, Mark and Helen McArdle celebrated the re-opening by inviting customer Joan Roberts to be first across the threshold of its new premises with a glass of fizz.

"Joan is one of a band of incredibly loyal customers you could set your watch by," Mr McArdle said.

"We are over the moon with the refit. The team from HK Interiors worked their socks off to get it all ship shape for the re-opening event."

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

It's 20 years since a young Army recruit was found dead with a single bullet wound at Deepcut Barracks and at last her Llanymynech parents might get the answers they deserve to so many questions.

Pte Cheryl James was just 18 and was starting out on an exciting career when her body was found at the Surrey barracks. Cheryl was one of four recruits to die between 1995 and 2002 at the base.

A gun was found near Cheryl's body and despite the fact that no evidence was presented to prove it to be the gun that fired the fatal bullet an open verdict was recorded with clear suggestions that she had taken her own life. Surrey police almost immediately handed the investigation over to the Royal Military Police special investigations branch.

The inquest, held three weeks after Cheryl's death, lasted just one hour and heard from seven witnesses. The coroner recorded an "open verdict". Parents Des and Doreen James refused to accept the verdict and after a 20-year campaign a new inquest finally opened on Monday.

In 2014, High Court judges ordered a fresh inquest into Pte James's death after they quashed the open verdict recorded in December 1995. The fresh inquest follows a two-decade battle by Cheryl's parents to force Surrey police to hand over crucial evidence concerning her death, which was treated as suspected suicide even though their daughter was said to be in good spirits, cheerful, happy and enjoying army life.

New evidence emerged last month which suggested Pte James may also have been sexually exploited by senior ranks shortly before her death. Des and Doreen James hope to prove that there has been a massive injustice. Four young lives have been lost and families kept in the dark about the circumstances behind the deaths of their loved ones. They deserve better. It is hard to imagine how Des and Doreen James have themselves survived such a terrible journey. The pain of losing a child under such circumstances is more than any parent deserves and for them to be kept in the dark for 20 years is simply unforgivable.

I have never encountered a more dignified couple. Throughout their terrible ordeal Des and Doreen James have resisted the temptation to go headline-searching, and God knows they had every right to do so. Instead they have conducted their case with patience and qualities that few among us could hope to replicate.

How many of us would have been demanding blood not answers? Let's all pray they find the reason their daughter died so that at last she can be laid to rest properly.

The media has followed the story of the death of recruits at Deepcut Barrack with interest

The parents of Cheryl James have been battling for years to find out what happened to their daughter

Des and Doreen James hope the new inquest will finally get to the truth about their daughter's death

Cheryl's parents hope to get answers on tragedy

A new inquest has opened on Army recruit Cheryl James. SUE AUSTIN speaks to her father Des

BRIGHT and bubbly young soldier Cheryl James was found with a gunshot wound to her head in November 1995 – just days into her basic training at the Deepcut Army Camp in Surrey.

Three weeks later her still shocked parents Des and Doreen James, who now live in Llanymynech near Oswestry, travelled down to Surrey for a brief inquest.

There was no forensic evidence – neither her clothes nor even the bullet that killed her were used in evidence.

There were no fingerprints taken at the scene.

Verdict

The coroner returned an open verdict at the original inquest.

The grieving couple could not let the matter lie and when they learned about similar deaths at the camp they began asking questions.

Her mother could never believe Cheryl would take her own life.

And she could not understand why Cheryl's diary, which she always kept, was not returned with her other possessions.

Their determination not to give up led to a review of four deaths in 2002 and a second review in 2006.

Des and Doreen James could have walked away then but refused.

And this week a re-examination of Cheryl's death in minute detail was starting with the staging of a second inquest.

The second inquest will hear evidence from dozens of people and the hearing could last about seven weeks.

More than 100 witnesses will either give evidence or have their statements read to the court.

New post mortem evidence will be revealed following the exhumation of Cheryl's body last summer.

Fragments of bullet recovered during that process apparently do not match the Army issue bullets for Cheryl's weapon.

And new evidence following heartfelt appeals by her parents suggest that she may have been sexually exploited by senior rank soldiers shortly before she died.

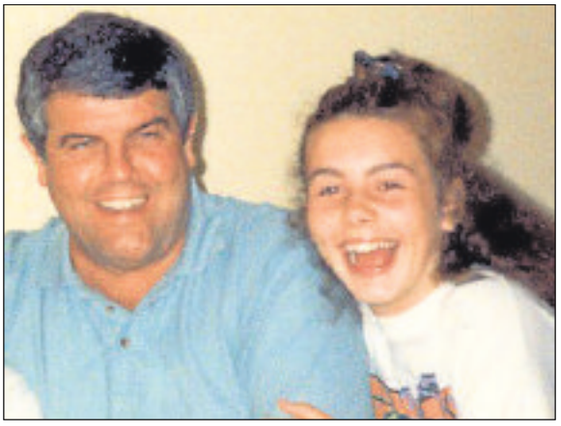
Speaking ahead of the second inquest starting, Mr James said: "I want to see the inquest underway now.

"The feeling of achievement that at last someone will listen is at times overpowering. It is a good feeling in horrendous circumstances.

"At long last I will be able to stand up in front of all those people, in front of a judge and for the first time I will be able to tell my story.

"We are not afraid of what will come out in court.

"Nothing can hurt us now and it certainly can't hurt Cheryl."



Des and Doreen James were devastated by the death of daughter Cheryl

Harrowing

Mr James said the response to an appeal for new evidence has been overwhelming and harrowing.

"I can understand why people didn't come forward in 1995.

"They would have been aged 17 and 18 and very afraid to speak out," he added.

A recent Freedom of Information request to Surrey police showed that 60 people had made allegations, allegations that Mr James said were not investigated.

He said: "Even in 2002 when there was the re-investigation these people were still young, 24 and 25 and many were still in the forces."

Parents

Mr James added: "Now they are in their 40s, out of the Army and many will be parents themselves.

"Why do I feel that the MoD, which was responsible for her care, and Surrey Police, which investigated her death, are both against me?"

When people accused Mr James of conjuring up a conspiracy theory he stuck to his guns.

And it was a series of coincidences that eventually led to the international campaign group Liberty taking on the case.

Extraordinary

He said: "The legal team that we have is extraordinary.

"I often come off the phone from them and think 'thank God they are on my side'.

"They have been ringing, three, four, five times a day with updates for us.

"They came on board thanks to playwright Philip Ralphs and his play Deep Cut."

He added: "It was so good it went to London where it was seen one night by someone who had been to school with the coroner.

"He was so overcome by the play he returned the next night with five or six of his colleagues and told them 'all we need now is a good barrister' .

"One of them had a friend – who went on to become our barrister.

"She in turn was good friends with the director of Liberty and she contacted the organisation which has now taken over our legal representation."

WORKING FOR YOU

The proposal for a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union was published on Tuesday and as expected was totally underwhelming. What is being sold by the Prime Minister and the European Commission as a fundamental renegotiation is nothing approaching that and makes it clearer than ever that the safest choice for the British people is to vote to leave the EU at the referendum. The concessions offered by the Commission are weak and we can expect them to be watered down further when the rest of the Member States have their say on the draft settlement. The baskets on economic governance and ever closer union both require treaty change at some unspecified time in the future. The proposals recognise that the UK "is not committed to further political integration." I have always made it clear that the European Union is leaving us and will more than likely require a new treaty, creating a fully redistributive federal state where there are means of transferring funds from the wealth creating areas of the Eurozone to struggling areas who are unable to prosper at the rate at which their countries joined the Euro. This is something that we can never be a part of regardless of any deal we strike with the rest of the EU. An emergency brake, even if agreed to by the rest of the EU will still only limit migrants' access to benefits for an unspecified period, rather than the total ban which was promised. Access to in-work benefits will be "graduated from an initial complete exclusion but gradually increasing."

Migrants will still be able to send benefits to their children abroad but this will be linked to the cost of living of each Member State, causing a bureaucratic nightmare for the DWP. The much trumpeted "red card" system is intended to allow the UK to band together with like-minded EU parliaments and block legislation only when subsidiarity is breached. In reality this will never happen. I want to see the end of the supremacy of EU law and the European Courts. I want to see our Government brought back within the control of our own Parliament. The renegotiation has been a tragically wasted opportunity to leave the EU and create an entirely new arrangement with our European neighbours allowing us to trade with them and cooperate across a wide range of activities whilst ultimately making our own laws in our own Parliament. We have an historic opportunity to take back our sovereignty and I hope that the people of North Shropshire will join me in campaigning to leave.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

Advertisement

WHAT ARE AN EMPLOYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING OTHER THAN STATUTORY LEAVE?

Q: I have a small business I want to expand. Currently only family members work for me and what bothers me about expansion is employee rights, particularly when it comes to taking on someone who might get pregnant. Apart from the usual holidays, can you outline what other rights to leave my employees may have ?

A: All employees have a statutory right to maternity, paternity and adoption paid leave. Pregnant employees are entitled to paid time off for ante-natal care and can take up to 52 weeks' statutory maternity leave starting any time after 11 weeks prior to the due birth date.

New mums must take a minimum of two weeks off after the birth of their child or, in the case of a factory worker, 4 weeks.

As an employer you would not have to pay an employee whilst they are on maternity leave, because they will be able to claim statutory maternity pay (SMP) for 39 weeks. You have a legal obligation to keep their job open under the same terms and conditions they enjoyed previously.

A related requirement is that parents and carers are allowed unpaid leave for reasonable time off to deal with an emergency involving a dependent. Emergency leave also includes bereavement leave to attend a dependant's funeral. Parents with young, disabled or recently adopted children also have certain further rights to unpaid leave.

Other instances where employees have a statutory right to either paid or unpaid leave include carrying out public services such as acting as a magistrate, or attending a training course if say you appointed them as a first aider.

Before taking on any new employees it would be advisable to seek legal advice about your employee contracts and have a clear policy on sick leave, disability leave and discretionary leave. This should include procedures that employees must follow when requesting any leave.

This question has been answered by Robert Williams, a Partner with GHP Legal.

For an appointment visit www.ghplegal.com or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01978 860313. For Personal Injury and Family matters we offer FREE legal diagnostic clinics every Wednesday at our Oswestry office and every Monday at our Wrexham office, 12-3pm (no appointment necessary). GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited.

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Use overseas aid for better defences

MAY I respectfully suggest that one of the better resolutions for 2016 would be for us all to lobby our MPs for the Government to take a sabbatical from the billions spent on overseas aid, using the money instead for meaningful flood defences in the UK.

Imagine what £12 billion could achieve. My heart goes out to those poor wretches suffering from flood damage and loss of livelihood.

Where was the head of the Environment Agency in their hour of need – sun bathing abroad and shame on our Prime Minister for not demanding he return immediately!

Lobby our MPs for the immediate halt of subsidies for wind generated electricity – if wind energy is all it's cracked up to be (which it isn't), then the wind industry will not collapse (which it will). It is as simple as that, pull the rug from under their feet.

Press for the immediate building of relatively low cost and efficient gas-fired (CCGT) power stations, and demand to know why government is spending large sums of money on dirty back-up diesel (of all things) generators.

Our prime minister opines the flooding is probably a consequence of climate change (go tell it to the Dutch with their flood defences) and we need windmills and horrendously expensive and potentially dangerous nuclear (fission) power stations to save us all.

To which I say, "Heaven help us all."

If you wish to know the truth then simply obtain a copy of my recently released book titled, "21st Century Electricity" (ISBN 978-1-78507-390-8) – there is a whole chapter on weather and climate plus much, much more.

This is a book the wind industry, power companies and government would prefer you leave on the shelf.

DAVE HASKELL
Cardigan

Our work will eventually end this world for all the humans

I READ about humans demanding services such as hospitals, schools, charity, religion to save oneself.

A hundred years ago the total amount of humans on this planet was two billion. Today the number of people has risen to seven billion. That is a raise of 350 per cent.

For the last 10,000 years there had been no increase in the total number of human beings. The deaths were equal to the births. Now curative treatment and healthy living conditions are experienced in more countries than ever. This has increased the survival of people. There could be 100 billion people living after the next 200 years. To keep these people we would need three planet Earths to reap.

We steal from this planet at the cost of other life forms. We mine, quarry, build, factorise, decorate, clear, steal other life space, mass grow artificial crops. We create artificial products that we consume. We clear forests and build. We do many things to deface the natural appearance of the planet. Our sense and our self interest is only for the survival of our personal life.

Politics is for the interest of humans. Factories produce the needs of human consumer goods. Cars, bikes, houses and all containers. They will clutter the Earth with useless things that will increase as the humanity population increases. We are animals that have reached the top spot of all planet Earth life. Humans have now set about ending the living world for humans.

TOM WILLIAMS
Sutton Hill

Work is started on town's new supermarket

Check this out. It's October 1984 and, according to the original caption "After months of careful negotiations work is finally under way on Oswestry's new supermarket on the Station Road car park. Workmen have cordoned off part of the park and cleared the site ready for the foundations to be dug next week."

Winter floods were expected

I HAVE always believed that truth will out, but I take no pleasure in saying that the warnings I have forecast in the past regarding flooding have come to prove correct.

We now are informed of a report to the Government from a drainage and water management agency, months ago, telling them that if they do not do something urgently what would happen and gradually get worse. Their report was dismissed and management systems for water control stopped, allegedly, because they could not be afforded.

This is rich coming from a government talking of creating a "Northern Power House" whilst ploughing untold billions into a railway project HS2, demanded by Europe, to shorten a journey by 20 minutes. Mr Cameron and Mr Osborne can cry crocodile tears for the people of the north who they have let down and are right now fighting to restore some normality into their lives but it cuts no ice with me.

The only redeeming thing that has come out of this catastrophe is the way that ordinary communities have come together to fight their problems and with friends from all over the country willing to work and donate to help relieve their suffering.

ADRIAN WILLIAMS
Bratton

Take care of your body as if it is like a posh Porsche car

WE seem to be sanitation and health and safety crazy, yet we have an overloaded health service in spite of drawing health professionals from all over the world.

My guess is that any doctor will tell you that it's mostly down to lifestyle. The human body is an amazing machine, it can be fuelled by a vast range of foods and can adjust to operate on even small amounts.

Like our dogs it is built for physical exercise and thrives on running and walking, and fresh air, our lazy brains tell us it's hard work. You don't need to go to the gym, just get up in time for 20 minutes on the mat in the kitchen, it will keep you supple and feeling good.

If you owned a Porsche you would be sure to cherish it, your body's engineering is far superior, self repairing, and on average will work non-stop 24 hours a day for about 70 years.

So just be thankful and keep following the Great Designer's instructions.

RON JONES
St Martins
Oswestry

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Readers' Letters,
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Ketley,
Telford, TF1 5HU

EMAIL
letters@oswestry chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Knitting project is big success

REGARDING the Knit for Peace campaign. I should like to say a big thank you to all those who answered the call to knit or crochet for refugees in Kurdistan. There was a very good response from nearly 40 people, who made some beautiful things.

So far nearly 300 garments and blankets have come in and been sent to Knit for Peace for packing. These will be sent by sea on a container lorry. On arrival they will go by truck to their destination.

GILLIAN RICHARDS
Oswestry

European Union is something of a modern miracle

AFTER two millennia of conflict including the 100 Years War, 30 Years War, WWl and WW2 just to mention a few, the western European powers came together to form a union – a 20th century miracle.

Such an innovative undertaking led, not surprisingly to the introduction of serious flaws, but it would be a dereliction of responsibility to abandon efforts to make the necessary changes, which might in fact take several generations to achieve.

In the future East European immigration and the benefits problem will be seen as transitory and petty. Surely our main problem apart from terrorism is illegal immigration and the flood of refugees fleeing into Europe from the Middle East?

We have more MEPs than any other country apart from Germany. If they co-operated they could have a significant impact on European legislation. It's not "them and us" – we are "them". Our exit would be considered hostile with probable raising of barriers and imposition of tariffs.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Try out drawing skills at art club

ARTISTS of all ages are being invited to try their hand at life drawing at a monthly art club.

The youth and community centre in Llanfyllin hosts the club on the last Thursday of every month from 7pm to 9pm, and sessions are suitable for all ages and abilities, including under 18s. A life model and easels are provided; bring your own paper and drawing utensils. There is no tutor which keeps costs low at £6 per session or £20 for four sessions. For more information contact Arts Connection on (01691) 648929 or email nina@artsconnection.org.uk

Arts Connection runs five creative programmes, including Arts for All, aimed all ages and abilities; Learning by Art, aimed at children and young people; Art of Wellbeing, aimed at the learning disabled and others with physical or mental health issues; Wild @ Art, which has a focus on sustainability and the environment; and Skills & Thrills, which looks at developing participatory arts practice.

Cafe hosting yoga classes for all

NEW classes aimed at introducing mums, babies and children to yoga are being held at a cafe in Oswestry.

The classes, run by Sasha Ford from Rebel Heart Yoga, take place on Wednesday mornings.

The yoga classes run in five-week blocks at the Baby Bird Cafe in Oswestry.

"It's really exciting to be starting these yoga classes in Oswestry, it's such a great discipline both for mind and body and its lots of fun," Miss Ford said.

Anyone with queries or wishing to book should contact Sasha on 07557 991805.

New awards recognise great community work

Report by Naomi Penrose

THE Chronicle has launched our We Mean Business Community Awards – and we are asking readers to help find the winners.

The awards are running alongside our We Mean Business campaign which each week promotes businesses in Oswestry.

We want to recognise the work the businesses featured in the first six months of our campaign do for the community. Please look through the list of businesses which have been featured in the first six months and choose who you feel is a worthy winner.

Nominations will be taken on board by our judges who will decide which three businesses win a We Mean Business Community Award. Drop off your nominations at our offices at 14 Salop Road, Oswestry, or email your nomination to news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk by Monday. Include a brief reason for your nomination.

The businesses are Booka Bookshop, Upstairs Downstairs, the British Ironwork Centre, Bridge Coffee, The Gates Gift Shop, The Black Lion, the Pharmacy@Caxton, VCW Security and The Meat Man.

Other businesses include the Simla Restaurant, Earthlink, Coversure, Lindstrand Technologies, M Battams Family Butcher, Prudent Financial Planning, Rocking Horse Studios and Hollis Office Solutions.

Also in the running for a community award are Hugh Roberts Ltd, Canary Gas, Cambrian Heritage Railways, Baby Bird Cafe and Pam Parish from Authors Inspire.

And other contenders are The Oak Furniture Shop, GHP Legal, Barbara Steadman from Another Gorgeous Day and Toni&Guy.

The Chronicle's associate editor Iain St John and advertising supervisor Beverley Thompson celebrate the We Mean Business Community Awards with Oswestry Mayor Peter Cherrington

Walk raises funding for British Legion

A GROUP of four friends spent a week walking the West Highland Way, raising more than £2,000 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Yvette and Dave Thomas, 51 and 52, and friends Andy Mason, 53, and Brian McKay, 36, followed a route that took them from Milngavie, Glasgow, through to Fort William and across some of the least inhabited parts of the United Kingdom.

The walk took them eight days to complete in the autumn and raised £1,832 in total, which increased to £2,132 with gift aid.

Mrs Thomas said: "It's not true that the midges on Rannoch Moor are as big as humming birds, they just feel like it when they bite.

"And we enjoyed some close encounters with red deer."

Mrs Thomas added: "Though our fundraising had taken place in and around Oswestry, we were wearing our Royal British Legion T-shirts which brought in further donations and encouragement from fellow walkers."

The group returned to Oswestry to present David Cooper, chairman of Oswestry Royal British Legion, with a cheque recently.

Two caught up in flood drama

FIRE crews helped two people escape from a van after it was driven into flood water.

Crews from Baschurch were called to Melverley Road, Kinnerley, at about 10.15am on Sunday.

A spokeswoman for Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service said: "The van had driven into flood water and two people were inside. We helped them out of the van and a local farmer with a tractor pulled the van out."

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Festive fair funds are handed out

STAFF and pupils at a Shropshire school raised more than £2,000 for charity at their Christmas fair.

The money is to be split evenly between Midland Air Ambulance and Severn Hospice. Pupils and staff at Packwood Haugh School in Ruyton XI Towns near Oswestry welcomed representatives from both charities to their school assembly.

Donations were presented by Packwood's head boy, Ed Bayliss, and head girl, Freja Bedell.

Deputy headmaster, Nick Jones, said: "Last term's event was the most successful yet and yielded the fantastic sum of £2,165. We are delighted to donate the money to two such highly deserving causes. msstfairSevern Hospice is a charity close to our hearts at Packwood and Mike Perry from the hospice fundraising team is a regular visitor to the school."

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Midland Air Ambulance which has attended more than 43,700 incidents over the years. Maria Jones, a representative from the charity, told the children that flying costs £25 a minute and that it takes, on average, 15 minutes to reach the region's specialist hospital.

Police in appeal over car damage

POLICE are investigating after a car door was scratched.

The owner of a black Mitsubishi Space Star at Trawscoed, Llandrinio, noticed a scratch along the nearside back door of the vehicle.

It is believed the damage was caused between the hours of 7pm on Wednesday last week and 7.35pm on Thursday last week. Constable Scott Hathaway is appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the damage to contact him at Welshpool police station on 101. Or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Blooming great service at Hobo Floral Design

WE MEAN BUSINESS

THE Chronicle's We Mean Business campaign celebrates Oswestry's businesses. This week we celebrate Hobo Floral Design in Leg Street.

Established in 1985, Hobo Floral Design is a bustling, friendly florist business in a pretty courtyard setting.

Tracey Austin from the business said: "We are a smiley, helpful, experienced team of ladies with professional qualifications in floristry, providing you with top quality Dutch flowers and an ever changing display of indoor and outdoor plants. Together with my very talented and smiley team of Fay Williams and Sue Hartley, we are the Three Floral Musketeers!"

Hobo Floral Design is a great choice when you are looking for flowers for any occasion including Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. In October 2015 Tracey was awarded the honour of becoming an Oswestry Chamber of Commerce Ambassador for the town. This award was given in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the aims and objectives of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce in promoting the town of Oswestry. In September 2015, Hobo was delighted to win two gold awards in the Oswestry in Bloom competition. Hobo regularly attend wedding fayres at local wedding hotel venues and has gained an excellent reputation for its wedding work.

Hobo florist has a huge following from other florists and plant professionals across the world, including Ireland, USA, Canada, Germany, Italy, Russia, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Australia & China.

Tracey Austin from Hobo Floral Design, Leg Street, Oswestry

NEWS IN BRIEF

Author to visit to talk about novel

AN evening full of 1980s nostalgia is in store as author Julia Forster visits Oswestry to talk about her debut novel, What a Way to Go.

Set in 1988, the book is about 12-year-old Harper Richardson. After her parents are divorced, her mum got custody of her, the Mini, and 500 tins of baked beans, while her dad got a mouldering cottage in a Midlands backwater village and default membership of the Lone Rangers single parents' club.

Harper got questionable dress sense, a zest for life, two gerbils, and her Chambers dictionary, and the responsibility of fixing her parents' broken hearts.

Julia will be talking about the story at Booka Bookshop, Church Street, Oswestry, on Tuesday at 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets are £5, which is redeemable against a signed copy of What a Way to Go and includes a glass of wine or soft drink on arrival. Call (01691) 662244 or visit the shop to book.

New manager for town care home

AN Oswestry care home has a new manager.

Imelda Briones has been appointed at manager of New Fairholme, independent care home provider Coverage Care has said.

She joined Coverage Care in 2012 as deputy manager at the former Fairholme facility.

She was promoted to nurse manager when New Fairholme opened in 2013 and now manages the 125 staff who run the purpose built 88-bed home in Shrewsbury Road. David Coull, chief executive of Coverage Care, said: "Our managers play an important part in maintaining the high standard of care we provide in our homes and I am confident Imelda will make excellent contribution to New Fairholme."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sign up to make sure you can vote

RESIDENTS who are not yet registered to vote are being urged to sign up.

Powys County Council said that on May 5 voters in the county will go to the polls for National Assembly for Wales and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

Anyone who isn't registered to vote won't be able to take part and have their say. The deadline to register to vote in these elections is April 18. It only takes a few minutes to register online at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote Jeremy Patterson, electoral registration officer for Powys, said: "Anyone not yet registered to vote should do so as soon as possible so they can have their say on issues that affect their day-to-day lives."

Residents can get a paper copy of the registration form by contacting (01597) 826717.

Ramblers on walk along the canal

THE next Welshpool Ramblers walk will be on Sunday when Dave Evans will lead a seven-mile easy circular walk from Ellesmere.

The walk will be following the canal tow path and footpaths, passing the picturesque Blakemere and Colemere lakes towards Welshampton, returning across open fields back to the lake at Ellesmere.

Walkers should meet at 9:30am in the car park beside the Welshpool Tourist Centre or alternatively at the start of the walk at the car park in Ellesmere situated at OS gridref SJ 398 345 for a 10:20am start.

All are welcome, but no dogs are allowed.

Further information can be obtained on (01938) 590307.

Much needed support is delivered to refugees

Report by Pam Kingsley

SLEEPING bags and supplies have been delivered to the Calais migrant camps by a Welshpool woman.

Jane Dodds, who is standing as the Lib Dem candidate for Montgomeryshire in May's Welsh Assembly election, has worked as a child protection social worker for 20 years, which has included working with refugee children.

But she said that work had not entirely prepared her for conditions she found when she spent the weekend helping in the camp.

"My visit was a humbling experience, and without our support, things will be much worse," she said.

"The squalor, filth, dirt and lack of facilities are overwhelming. Tents and shelters lie within centimetres of each other, amidst puddles of rancid water. People stand around wrapped up in coats and scarves but there is nothing for them to do.

"We went to one part for women and families and saw at least two children under 10 and several children under 18 who seemed to be on their own. Although people smiled at us and chatted, there was a sense of sheer hopelessness and loss."

Mrs Dodds had collected sleeping bags and tarpaulins from people living in Powys and delivered them to the warehouse in the camp before helping to distribute items to those living there.

"The sleeping bags were very warmly received by the volunteers in Calais," she said. "They are the most practical help for people living out under tents and tarpaulins in their thousands."

Jane Dodds, the Lib Dems' Assembly election hopeful, at the Calais refugee camps

Display is more than child's play

A MUSEUM'S latest exhibition on toys and games through the ages is set to capture the imaginations of children as well as adults.

While the children will enjoy seeing what toys were popular in "the olden days" and how they have changed over the years, the adults will reminiscence about what and how they used to play.

The exhibition runs until April 12 at the Powysland Museum in Welshpool and brings together the museum's collection of toys and games, some of which are well-known and some of which are more obscure as well as a small display case with some items from the curator's childhood in Denmark. Curator Eva Bredsdorff said: "The children and adults like to see the similarities and differences with today's toys and the old toys, which do not exist anymore.

"Those who come and see the exhibition will see the differences between toys and games from the last half of the 19th century and those of today but will also recognise there are still the classics such as the teddy bear, the Barbie doll, Lego, as well as games such as Monopoly."

Train tickets will be sold by centre

RAIL tickets will be sold at Welshpool's town council-run tourist information centre from Easter time.

Councillors have agreed to take on the selling of rail tickets at the centre. Welshpool Mayor Malcolm Douglass said: "This is another tremendous service for the people of Welshpool. At the present time residents have to go to Newtown or Shrewsbury for many tickets, now you can buy there here in your own home town."

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Langfords Welsh Sausage Company based in Welshpool has just launched its new Gluten Free Range of flavoured pork products for the schools allowing Coeliacs to enjoy the benefits of safe, good quality pork sausages or meatballs.

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Special report

Alan Crowe pictured with singers Cathy Beech, left, and Rebecca Melia at Welshpool Town Hall

Alan Crowe starts the annual senior citizens event at Welshpool Town Hall

Alan's still a top turn

HE'S been entertaining a town's senior citizens for seven years – and he says he has no plans to slow down any time soon.

More than 100 pensioners were entertained at the latest senior citizens' party organised by Alan Crowe at Welshpool Town Hall.

Singers, a storyteller and a comedy musician were among the acts put on for the audience.

Mr Crowe, 56, said the party on Tuesday last week went very well and everyone had enjoyed themselves.

The entertainer said: "We have a guest star every year and this year it was Freddie Parrot Face Davies.

"We also had two female singers, a comedy musician and a lady regaling the audience with stories told in the style of Pam Ayres.

"I know it was a success because so many people have stopped me in town since to say what a great time they had.

"It is quite a challenge to put on the party, but it is very rewarding too, and the kind comments I have received from people is humbling."

Mr Crowe started the senior citizens party seven years ago because he noticed that unless people were members of groups or clubs, there was no party for them to attend.

He said: "I have been involved in entertainment all my life and realised that the big celebratory parties that used to be held just weren't taking place anymore.

"I had a friend in the catering trade and we worked out how we could put on food at a reasonable cost. I also got my good friend Jimmy Cricket to come along and from then on we have had a surprise guest star each year.

"We also hold a raffle at the party and the money we raise goes to lots of local clubs and groups."

Mr Crowe is already looking forward to putting on a party next year and it is open to anyone aged 60 or over who lives in Welshpool and the surrounding villages.

Guests from near and far attended Welshpool Town Hall to enjoy the senior citizens' party

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Mother says thank-you to those who helped her son

THE heartbroken mother of a teenage moped rider who was killed in a crash after losing control has thanked those who helped him at the scene.

Report by Naomi Penrose

Jessica Longman, mother of 16-year-old Kalun Longman, has paid tribute to those who stayed with her son after he had collided with a transit van while riding his moped on the A483 at Llanymynech, near Oswestry, on October 6.

Mrs Longman has spoken out following her son's inquest, where coroner for Powys Andrew Barkley recorded that her son had died from multiple injuries due to a road traffic collision.

She said: "I can't imagine what it would've been like for those there on the day but me and Kalun's father want to say a big thank you to those who stayed with Kalun after it had happened and helped him.

"We really can't thank them enough and the emergency services too."

Mrs Longman said since her son's death, more than £5,000 has been raised through fundraising events including a charity football match.

The money raised will be donated to the Wales Air Ambulance and to the Pitt Hopkins Research Foundation.

Kalun Longman died when his moped was involved in a road collision near Oswestry

Volunteers are needed for tea

VOLUNTEERS are needed for a Victorian tea which will be taking place in a village near Oswestry later this month.

On February 20, the Institute in Weston Rhyn will be the venue for the fundraising tea event. One of the organisers of the event, Angela Bright, is calling on anyone in the area who can spare a couple of hours to help out on the day. The event starts at 2.30pm and will run until 4.30pm.

Mayor of Oswestry, Councillor Peter Cherrington has been invited to the event, organisers say.

Tickets cost £5.

The profits from the village's Victorian Tea event will go to Weston Rhyn Primary School and the Weston Rhyn-based Good Companions group.

Legal aid plans are scrapped by government

FIERCELY opposed cuts to legal aid fees for duty solicitors who represent people facing legal proceedings in police stations and magistrates courts have been scrapped.

Justice secretary Michael Gove's plans to radically reduce the number of criminal defence solicitors have been suspended.

The proposals which included an 8.75 per cent fee cut have been shelved for 12 months from April 1 – a second 8.75 per cent fee cut which was introduced in July last year, and a dual contract-tendering procedure which would restrict the number of law firms permitted to do duty legal work, has been dropped.

The plans faced strong opposition from local solicitors, who last year formed a picket line outside Welshpool Magistrates Court. Paul Inns, president of the Mid Wales Law Society and leader of the strike action taken by local solicitors, criticised the government for their "disgraceful" delay in coming to the decision.

He said: "Make no mistake, this is an humiliating climbdown by the government. It was always obvious that these ill drafted proposals would never work.

"It's disgraceful that it's taken the government so long to reach this decision and that solicitors were forced to go on strike over the issue.

"Despite the government's complete U-turn, it remains the case that the rates of pay for criminal defence solicitors are ridiculously low for the work that they undertake, often at the most unsociable of hours.

"There is a real risk that given the government's actions over the last 18 months, many criminal defence solicitors will simply have had enough and will find other areas of law in which to practise."

Bank closure is final says HSBC

HSBC banking officials have made it clear the decision to close its branch in Chirk is not up for review and remains final.

Shaun Jones, clerk of Chirk Town Council, spoke following a meeting between councillors and representatives from HSBC, who said there was "no silver lining" as the banking giant confirmed it would still be pulling out of its branch in Chirk in April.

Despite being grilled by town councillors, Mr Jones said HSBC remained adamant the branch would close and there would be no consultation.

He said: "They've made it clear this decision is not up for review.

"From a community and town council perspective we've not just sat on our hands, we've certainly made our best efforts to bring them to book so to speak.

"We've made many representations to them by way of petitions, contacting our politicians and public meetings, so it's extraordinarily frustrating.

"We're a small cog against a huge machine but of course we're in the real world, it's a commercial decision."

Mr Jones said the closure will hit the town's elderly residents the hardest.

A spokesman for HSBC said the Chirk branch had seen a 40 per cent reduction in footfall, 81 per cent of contact with the bank was now completed via the telephone, internet or smartphone and that 97 per cent of cash withdrawals were made via an ATM.

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, February 4, 2016

Region has plenty of venues for romance

Advertisement Feature

THE Oswestry and Welshpool area is blessed with a wide variety of fantastic venues which offer a perfect setting for a Valentine's Day treat.

The region has plenty of superb hotels and pubs where you can dine with your loved one and it also has a wide range of businesses which offer spa and beauty treatments too to make this Valentine's season one to remember.

Hotels in the area pull out all the stops to ensure your Valentine's Day treat is perfect.

Among them is the Wynnstay Hotel & Spa, Oswestry.

A hotel spokeswoman said: "Why not wine and dine your loved one this year for Valentine's Day?

"We give from the heart on Valentine's Day so now is the perfect time to escape with the one you love to the Wynnstay Hotel & Spa, Oswestry where "Love is in the air".

"An intimate candelit dinner at the hotel's Four Seasons Restaurant is a lovely way to celebrate your love.

"Our experienced team of chefs have created a delicious four course menu, the perfect treat for your Valentine.

"The menu is available on Saturday, February 13, and Sunday, February 14, booking is essential and reservations can be made by calling (01691) 655261.

"And at the Beauty Suite we have created a Spa Experience with Valentines Day in mind, the perfect way to unwind, relax and enjoy some well earned quality time together.

"Available throughout February.

"Bookings can be made by calling The Beauty Suite on (01691) 668910.

"Or make a weekend of it, stay overnight for a little extra romance and pampering for just £75 B&B.

"The offer will include a bottle of chilled Prosecco and petit fours in your room on arrival plus full use of spa facilities.

"Our range of treatments, packages and special offers can be found at www.wynnstayhotel.com"

The popular Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry offers a superb romantic setting for Valentine's Day

Listen to the experts' advice for the best care

EVERYONE wants to look their best for their Valentine's Day celebrations and health and beauty experts have plenty of helpful advice on hand.

Experts advise that our skin is incredibly fickle, changing with our diet, hormones, lifestyle and the seasons.

A consultation with an expert could be just what you need to determine whether you're on the right track with your skincare routine.

Skin specialist and LloydsPharmacy pharmacist Jo Carey said: "By having a good insight into what is going on underneath the surface of your skin our trained advisers are able to recommend products that will complement your skin type while tackling those concerns you may have, such as dryness, ageing, pigmentation or blemishes."

The free service, which uses probes and a digital and visual assessment to test for hydration, pH, melanin, elasticity, sebum and temperature, is available at more than 100 stores nationwide (www.lloydspharmacy.com).

Meanwhile, many will be thinking about what kind of make-up they need for their Valentine's date.

Ever daydreamed about creating your own make-up range, combining your favourite day cream with that pressed powder that's just the right shade, to create your perfect foundation?

Well, with Cover FX Custom Cover Drops, £32 (BeautyBay.com), you're one step closer. Available in 23 shades, these helpful and highly pigmented drops can be added to any moisturiser, serum or even oil, turning your bathroom into your own personal beauty lab.

And if you add Gosh Lumi Drops, £7.99, into the mix then you can give your make-up creations a luminous glow too, choosing from peach, golden or bronzed shades (www.superdrug.com).

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Valentine's MENU £45.00 PER PERSON

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th February, 2016

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Prosecco cocktail and canapés
A red rose for the lady

Amuse Bouche of
Truffled wild mushroom veloute,
parmesan foam, baby herbs

Starters
Pan seared scallops, celeriac and vanilla puree, parma ham crisps,
smoked pancetta broth, micro leaves
or
Sun blushed tomato arancini stuffed with bocconcini,
warm tomato and basil consommé

Pink grapefruit and burgundy granite

Main Courses
Pan seared breast of duck, confit duck leg, duck bon bon,
pomegranate sauce, star anise carrot puree,
wilted bok choy, confit potatoes
or
Fillet of local beef, textures of onions and mushrooms,
bone marrow fritter, potato and thyme ring,
glazed baby vegetables, truffle puree
or
Roasted pear, confit tomato and goat's cheese tatin,
compressed tomato heirloom tian, lightly spiced potato
and lentil dahl, hazelnut and brioche crumb, textures
of root vegetables
or
Pan seared halibut, lobster mousseline, garlic infused
steamed clams, tomato water, and sea herbs

Desserts
A lover's mosaic of chocolate and sweet textures to share:
Black forest truffles,
warmed chocolate tartlet,
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white chocolate parfait with blood orange sauce,
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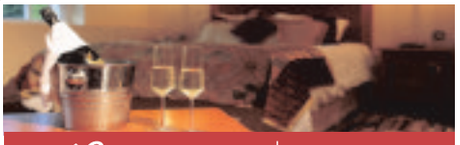

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Use the clever code to find your perfect look

FROM tailored haircare to mix-your-own make-up, customisation is taking over the cosmetics world.

No longer content with ready-to-wear threads anyone can buy, luxury shoppers have been snapping up monogrammed and made-to-measure fashions by the bucketload – and now the beauty industry is getting in on the action.

Driven by technological advances brands are able to tailor ranges according to individual skin and hair types, while other products offer DIY customisability at home, and experts agree that eventually, the personalised approach will be the norm. Determining the best products for your hair can involve a lot of trial and error, but with the new System Professional EnergyCode Mapping process, you can laser in on the ideal solutions.

"There is evidence that your hair is as unique as your fingerprint, so our researchers have developed the latest in hair diagnostic tools and care products, to meet the needs of everyone's 'hair fingerprint'," explains global brand director Alberto Uncini. By visiting selected salons or completing a survey online, discover your own EnergyCode – which is comprised of up to five elements from more than 174 million combinations – and the products to suit your needs from shampoo and conditioner to masks and serums. with prices starting from £21.25 (www.systemprofessional.com).

Poppy and Chloe Delevingne modelling the System Professional EnergyCode Mapping products

Change things up to keep your regime fresh

THEY say a change is as good as a rest – and that can certainly be true when you discover a super new beauty product. Shea butter, coconut oil, hyaluronic acid – the usual suspects crop up on the bottles in our bathroom cabinets and make-up bags time and time again.

That's not to say they're no good – these ingredients are popular precisely because they're so effective – but it's wise to shake up your beauty routine on a regular basis too, to ensure you're not missing out on that miracle product you've been longing for.

And now's the perfect time, with a major influx of innovative new elements emerging from the world's cosmetic laboratories right now, plundered from the depths of the oceans and mountain peaks alike.

There are plenty of ingredients to add to your 2016 beauty shopping list.

Like a blow-dry in a can, Macadamia Professional Style Extend Dry Shampoo, £19.95, uses volcanic ash to soak up excess oils and refresh second – or even third – day hair in seconds.

Unlike other dry shampoos, it feels more like a hairspray, with no white chalky residue in sight, and a creamy coconut scent to boot (www.macadamiahair.co.uk). Avocado continues its reign as the trendiest breakfast food around, but the creamy green fruit is more than just Instagram fodder. Vivderma Sculpting Neck & Chest Cream, £45, contains Effipulp, a peptide derived from avocado that helps to boost skin volume and detoxify cells (www.vivderma.com). Oriental citrus fruit yuzu has cropped up on the fanciest restaurant menus in recent years, and now its antioxidant goodness has been harvested in Erborian Yuza Double Lotion, £32. Shake the bottle to mix the rejuvenating (aqueous) and nourishing (oil) phases, before sweeping over skin with cotton wool (www.erborian.com). Looking for a flawless foundation finish? Airbase is available at The Make-Up Salon in Urban Retreat at Harrods (www.urbanretreat.co.uk), £100 for a one-hour session, or £199 for a home system including foundation and a blusher or bronzer (www.airbasemakeup.com).

The Airbase make-up treatment, available from urbanretreat.co.uk

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The Pincushion, 67 Beatrice Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY111QR United Kingdom
Knitting for Intermediates: Thursday 11th February, 10am - 2pm, £25 This is a follow up workshop from knitting for beginners. On this workshop you will learn how to knit a number of different stitches, how to cable, different cast on and cast off methods, how to knit on circular needles and how to follow a pattern. 10am-2pm, £25

Crochet Club
February 12 @ 2:00 pm - April 1 @ 4:00 pm
The Pincushion, 67 Beatrice Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY111QR United Kingdom
Crochet Club: 2-4pm, £5 an hour Starting Friday 12th Feb and continuing every Friday afternoon 2-4pm Do you find following crochet patterns difficult? This drop in session is designed to help and support you whilst your crocheting. I will be there to help, advise and reassure you with your crochet. £5 an hour

Latvian Mittens
February 27 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
The Pincushion, 67 Beatrice Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY1 11QR United Kingdom
Latvian Mittens: Saturday 27th February, 10am - 4pm, £40 Learn to knit braids, scallops and fringes into these beautifully intricate mittens from Latvia. We will discuss the colours, origins and symbolism of patterns associated with Latvian knitting.

The Pincushion
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Military orders subject of talk

AN archaeology group will meet on Friday next week.

The next meeting of the Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group will hear from Roger Cooper.

He is the archaeological director of the Oswestry Castle Research Project and he will speak on monastic military orders.

Much popular and sensational fiction has been written about the military religious orders, especially the Knights Templar, but most of these works are based on myth and legend with little historical fact.

This lecture will give an overview of these monks of war and the impact that they had, not only on the crusades, but on Western Europe up to the 17th century.

New members and visitors are welcome to the talk.

The talk will be held in Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry, at 7.30pm.

For the full 2016 programme visit www.oswestry.histarch.uk

Chance to have some Frozen fun

A FORMER West End performer and actor will be running a musical theatre workshop for youngsters based on the Disney film Frozen.

Julie Kirk-Thomas, who was part of the original cast of the hit musical Evita, will be bringing the film's icy magic to The Centre in Oak Street, Oswestry, during half term. The Frozen Musical Workshop will take place on February 17 and 18. Julie, who now lives in Llangollen, said: "I'm looking for boys and girls aged four to 11 for this fun production of Frozen. It's a great opportunity to do something different and learn some new skills during the half term." The workshop will culminate with a performance for family and friends. To book a place email danceworkshops@yahoo.co.uk

Mother fights for end to anorexia heartbreak

Report by Mark Andrews

SEVEN years ago, Helen Missen noticed that her 15-year-old daughter Jenny appeared to be struggling with her food.

"Initially, I thought it was what all teenage girls go through, worrying about how they look, but quite quickly I noticed something was wrong," Helen says.

Helen took Jenny — not her real name – to see her GP. She was diagnosed with anorexia nervosa."Anorexia literally landed, imploded our lives and changed the course of them forever," says Helen, who lives in Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, near Oswestry.

Jenny has been able to make a recovery, and has a bright future ahead of her.

But for many others, the journey is not so smooth. An estimated 1.6 million people in the UK have some form of eating disorder, and 10 per cent of them will die as a result of their illness. And now, in an effort to help others who are suffering from the illness, Helen is raising money for research which could have a dramatic change in the way the condition is treated.

Charlotte's Helix is a project to collect 1,000 blood or saliva samples from people in the UK as part of international research into the genetic causes of anorexia.

The project is dedicated to the memory of Helen's friend, Charlotte Bevan, who died from breast cancer in 2013. To carry out the research, Helen needs to raise £100,000 for the samples to be analysed, and as part of her fundraising drive she has organised a Burn's Night celebration which will be held at Shrewsbury's Albrighton Hall Hotel and Spa on Saturday. Helen says: "Opinions on the illness are changing but much more needs to be done to understand why some people are more predisposed to anorexia than others." For further information visit www.charlotteshelix.net

Helen Missen and her son Zac get ready for the fundraising celebrations. Photo: Jamie Ricketts.

Councillors support new agent role

CHIRK will get a "good neighbour" to help its most vulnerable and socially isolated members of the community.

Councillors have given their backing to employing a town resident as a community agent who will work to support the older members of the town, who suffer from loneliness and social isolation.

Delyth Pridding, planning and commissioning officer in adult social care at Wrexham Council, told the latest meeting of Chirk Town Council that the scheme had been rolled out to other community councils including Glyn Ceiriog and Ruabon and had proved to be a success.

She said: "It's about reducing loneliness and isolation which is key for us in adult social care.

"A community agent supports people who are over 50 and signposts them to services they need, including those who are recently bereaved."

Councillors were informed that the scheme will be a contract between Wrexham Council and the town council, with the town council acting as the employer to the community agent, who will be paid £7,500 a year for the part time role.

Crews are called out to drier fire

FIREFIGHTERS removed a tumble drier from a property after it caught fire in the garage of a home.

The alarm was raised shortly after 7.40pm on Friday after the tumble drier was on fire in the adjoining garage of a house in Perry Road, Gobowen.

Two crews from Ellesmere and Oswestry were mobilised, however the blaze was out on arrival.

Crews removed the drier from the property. The ambulance service was not called out as nobody was hurt in the fire.

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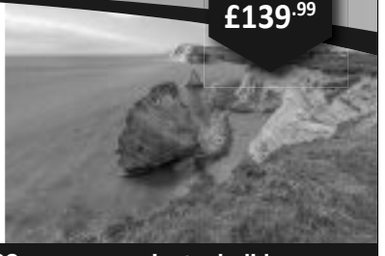

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Detached property is in a prestigious area

This spacious four-bedroomed detached home in Hayes View, Oswestry lies on a large plot in a private cul-de-sac in one of the town's most prestigious residential areas.
It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £315,000.
The property has spacious and flexible living accommodation.
The home's accommodation includes a porch, a large entrance hall with stairs off and under-stairs storage and there is a cloakroom.
The property has a lounge with a decorated fireplace and double doors leading into a dining room which then links into a good sized conservatory.
The kitchen/breakfast room overlooks the garden to the rear and has a four ring gas hob with extractor hood over and an integrated fan assisted oven and separate grill and floor tiling.
There is an adjoining utility area with a door leading directly into the integrated double garage.
On the first floor of the property there is a master bedroom with en-suite and three other bedrooms all served by a family bathroom with a white suite and a bath with a shower attachment and ceiling spotlights.
Externally the property stands in a well maintained and secure south facing rear gardens.
There is a large patio and the property benefits from further paved areas to the side.
To the fore is a large tarmac driveway providing ample off road parking with views towards open countryside.
For further information contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Four-bedroom property has period features throughout

This is a rare opportunity to purchase a spacious, four-bedroom, semi-detached property. Greystones Court on Shrewsbury Road is situated on the fringe of the popular market town of Oswestry. The property has period features throughout and offers flexible living accommodation including large entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, cloakroom, boiler room, cellar, four large bedrooms and family bathroom.
Externally the property is approached over a gravelled driveway leading to private gardens, patio and ample off road parking. Offers in the region of £279,500. Contact Bowen Son and Watson on 01691 652367.

Spacious detached home sits in an attractive position

A spacious detached bungalow, 17 Park Drive in Oswestry, is situated in a popular residential area. The property is for sale through JJ Dell&Co with a guide price of £294,950 and there is no chain. The home occupies an attractive position overlooking the town and it is within walking distance of the town's amenities. The property benefits from central heating and double glazing. There is a kitchen, dining room, lounge, three bedrooms and a bathroom. In addition one of the bedrooms benefits from an ensuite bathroom. The property also has a conservatory, a utility and a good size garden plot. The home is approached over a tarmacadam drive providing ample car parking and turning area.
There are also useful timber and felt store sheds and a good size rear patio area.
For more information contact JJ Dell&Co on 01691 653437 and 01691 680212.

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4 BEDROOM DETACHED

Long Croft, Weston Rhyn

This detached family home is situated in a pleasant cul de sac location within a popular village with excellent amenities. The property benefits from views of open countryside to the rear of the property and a easy maintainable garden. Reception Hall, Cloakroom, Kitchen, Utility, Lounge Dining Room, First Floor Landing, Master Bedroom with Ensuite and Walk-in Wardrobe, Three Further Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, Parking and Gardens.

Price: £210,000 T: 01691 670 320

4 BEDROOM DETACHED

Milars Field, Morda

This FOUR bedroom detached family home is situated in a pleasant residential area overlooking the playing field and green. Ideally located for those who commute and is only 1.5 miles from Oswestry Town. Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge which opens onto the Garden, Dining Room, Kitchen and Utility Area, spacious First Floor Landing, Master Bedroom with Ensuite, Three Further Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, Gardens, Parking.

Price: £205,000 T: 01691 670 320

4 BEDROOM DETACHED

Onnen Gardens, Trefonen

This immaculate detached family home is situated in a quiet cul de sac location within the popular borderland village of Trefonen. The accommodation comprises: Reception Hall, Cloakroom, Study, Dining Room, Lounge, Kitchen Breakfast Room, Utility Room, First Floor Landing, Master Bedroom with Ensuite, Three further Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gardens to Front, Side and Rear, Double Garage.

Price: £350,000 T: 01691 670 320

DETACHED COTTAGE

Silverdale, Maesbury Marsh

This detached cottage is situated in a most pleasant location on the edge of a popular village. The cottage is spacious and offers Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom, Playroom, Lounge, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, Ample Parking, Gardens to the Front, Side and Rear. the property is warmed by oil fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing. Undergone a scheme on updating by the current owners, this property must be viewed.

Price: £249,950 T: 01691 670 320

NO CHAIN 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS

Upper Church Street, Oswestry

This deceptively spacious Victorian town house offers spacious accommodation over three floors and is situated a short walk from Oswestry Town Centre. The property retains many original features, is warmed by gas fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing. The accommodation comprises: Lounge, Kitchen Dining Room, Utility Room, Cellar, Landing, Bedroom One, Bathroom, Second Floor Landing, Two further Double Bedrooms, Enclosed Rear Garden.

Price: £149,950 T: 01691 670 320

NO CHAIN 3 BEDROOM DETACHED

Queens Close, Oswestry

This immaculate detached property is situated in a most sought after cul de sac position within walking distance to Oswestry Town Centre. Fully re-furbished to a high standard this property offers spacious accommodation warmed by gas fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing. Hall, Lounge, Dining Room/ Bedroom Three, Kitchen Breakfast Room, Pantry, Hall, Utility Cupboard, Bathroom, Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Garage, Gardens, Parking.

Price: £280,000 T: 01691 670 320

NO CHAIN

Nr Llangedwyn

A wonderful opportunity to purchase a detached barn conversation situated in a most delightful Welsh Borderland Hamlet. Recently installed with electric central heating and benefitting from a host of period features. Offering a lovely reception room and two bedrooms with garage and gardens this South Facing barn must be viewed to be appreciated.

Price: £210,000 T: 01691 670 320

3 BEDROOMS

Warren House, Gobowen

This attractive period semi detached house offers spacious accommodation with characterful features. The accommodation comprises: Reception Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen Breakfast Room, Cellar, Boot Room/Rear Entrance, Utility, First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom and WC, Gardens to Front, Side and Rear, Outside WC, Garage and Parking. Warmed by gas fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing.

Price: £164,950 T: 01691 670 320

PERIOD PROPERTY

Stewart Road, Oswestry

A spacious THREE bedroom Victorian end of terrace home benefiting from TWO reception rooms and gas fired central heating. Located within easy walking distance to the town centre this property must be viewed to be appreciated. Retaining much character throughout. Reception Hall, Living Room, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Utility Room, First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms, Nursery/Home Office, Bathroom, Side Garden with Sheds.

Price: £154,950 T: 01691 670 320

DETACHED HOUSE

Coach Turn, Llanymynech

This two bedroom detached cottage is situated in central village position with lovely countryside walks nearby. The property is ideally positioned for those who commute and should be viewed to be appreciated. Hall, Living Room, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Utility, Bathroom, Bedroom One with Ensuite and Eaves Store, Bedroom Two, Generous Size Garden, Parking. UPVC double Glazing (where stated) and warmed by oil fired central heating.

Price: £159,950 T: 01691 670 320

NO CHAIN BUNGALOW

Brookfields, Weston Rhyn

A wonderful opportunity to purchase a semi detached two bedroom bungalow situated in a pleasant and quiet residential area within a sought after village with an abundance of amenities and regular bus service. Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Side Hall, Utility Room/Store, Store Room, Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bathroom, Garden. Warmed by gas fired central heating and benefitting from UPVC double glazing. EPC Rating D.

Price: £110,000 T: 01691 670 320

COTTAGE & LAND

Pen Y Parc, Moelfre

This delightful character cottage is situated in a most enchanting rural position, secluded but not isolated. Offering three bedrooms, three reception rooms and a potential annexe (subject to planning consent). The grounds extend to 4.5 acres and offer excellent equestrian features, accompanied with the well established cottage gardens, this property with undoubtedly be of interest to keen gardeners and those with equestrian interests. EPC Rating F.

Price: £399,950 T: 01691 670 320

NO CHAIN DETACHED HOUSE

Tynings, Morda Close, Oswestry

This handsome detached family home is situated in a most prestigious residential area a short walk from Oswestry Town. Retaining many of its 1955 features which complement the immaculate interiors this property must be viewed to be appreciated. Elegant Reception Hall, Sitting Room, Formal Lounge, Kitchen Dining Room, Utility Room, Inner Hallway, Cloakroom, Study/Playroom, Conservatory, Four First Floor Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gardens, Parking.

Price: £410,000 T: 01691 670 320

DETACHED BUNGALOW

The Meadows, Pant

This three bedroom spacious bungalow is situated in a pleasant quiet cul de sac location with South facing views across the Shropshire Plain. The accommodation is warmed by oil fired central heating and benefits from double glazing. The accommodation comprises: Reception Hall, Cloakroom, Dining Room, Lounge, Kitchen Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Garage, Parking, Gardens.

Price: £284,950 T: 01691 670 320

NO CHAIN SPACIOUS DETACHED HOUSE

Glebe House, Selattyn

Standing within its extensive garden this detached former Rectory offers adaptable and spacious accommodation with superb conservatory. Positioned well for village life on the edge of a most sought after Welsh Borderland village. Reception Hall, WC, Office, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility/Boot Room, Large Conservatory, Lounge, Master Bedroom with Ensuite, Three Further Bedrooms, Bathroom, Workshop, Garage, Garden Stores, Ample Parking.

Price: £389,950 T: 01691 670 320

5 BEDROOM DETACHED

The White House, Llwyn Y Go

This detached character property is situated in a most idyllic rural position with large garden and double garage. Dating back to the 17th Century, extended to provide a most spacious and comfortable family home. Hall, WC, Shower Room, Kitchen Breakfast Room, Utility, Boot Room, Living Room, Snug, Dining Room, Home Office, Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Bedroom Four, Bathroom, Bedroom Five/Nursery, Double Garage, Large Gardens with Orchard.

Price: £395,000 T: 01691 670 320

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Oswestry - 2 Bed Apartment - £465pcm
Llangedwyn - 3 Bed Semi Detached - £525 pcm
Oswestry - 1 Bed Flat - £350pcm
Weston Rhyn - 2 bed flat - £425 pcm

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- Immaculate Three Bedroom
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- uPVC Double Glazing
- Off-Road Parking

£159,950

OSWESTRY

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- Investment Property
- Three Bedroom
- Semi-Detached Bungalow
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- Off Road Parking
- Single Garage
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- Mahogany Double Glazing

£120,000

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LLYNCLYS

- NO CHAIN!!
- Three Bedroom Family Home
- Modernised Semi-Detached
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Modern Fitted Bathroom
- Off-Road Parking
- Oil Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Sought After Location
- Viewing Recommended

£125,000

ST MARTINS

- VIEWING ADVISED!!
- Well Presented Bungalow
- Lovely Views
- Semi-Detached
- Two Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Well Maintained Gardens
- Off-Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing

£137,500

MORDA

- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Character Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Accommodation
- Sympathetically Modernised
- Off Road Parking
- Backing Onto Fields
- Convenient Location

Offers in the region of £139,950

LLANYMYNECH

- VIEWING ADVISED!!
- Four Bedroom
- Master En-Suite
- Three Storey End Terrace
- Well Maintained Throughout
- Off-Road Parking
- Conservatory
- Gas Central Heating

£155,000

HIRNANT, PENYBONTFAWR

- Traditional Stone Built
- Farmhouse
- 160 Acres of Land
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- Two Reception Rooms
- Range of Outbuildings
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£479,950

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- Two Bedroom
- Detached Bungalow
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- Greenhouse
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- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing

£175,000

FOXEN MANOR, FOUR CROSSES

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Bungalow
- Conservatory
- Spacious Rear Garden
- Views
- Garage
- Off-Road Parking
- Oil Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Viewing Recommended

Offers in the region of £212,000

OSWESTRY

- Spacious Detached House
- Four Bedrooms
- Corner Plot Gardens
- Detached Double Garage
- Cul De Sac Position
- Well Maintained
- Three Reception Rooms
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in the region of £275,000

NR GUILSFIELD

- Beautiful Small Holding
- Four Bedroom House
- Approximately 5 Acres
- Several Outbuildings
- Picturesque Location
- Oil Central Heating
- P.P. For Holiday Lets
- Viewing Recommended

£625,000

OSWESTRY

- NO CHAIN!!
- Mid Terrace Cottage
- Close to Town Centre
- Two Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Garden to the Rear
- Gas Central Heating
- Well Maintained
- Ideal FTB or Investment

£89,950

2-4 Willow Street, Oswestry, SY11 1AA Visit all our propertiesat www.townandcountryoswestry.com

Superb home has been tastefully extended

A superior six-bedroomed detached village residence, 6 Offas Close, Treflach has been tastefully extended to create a truly spacious family home. It is for sale through Richmond Harvey for offers in the region of £320,000.

The property lies in a private position within this select development and is set in a generous plot. A particular feature is the delightful open plan kitchen, dining room and family room which provide excellent family living/entertaining space. This home also has potential to create a self-contained annexe.

With superfast broadband it has an entrance lobby, a reception hall, a WC, a living room and a kitchen. There is also a family room, shower room/utility, a games room, six bedrooms, a bathroom and front and rear gardens. For details contact Richmond Harvey on 01691 654222 or visit www.richmondharvey.com

RICHMOND HARVEY

Detached family home is in a popular location

Orchard House, Maesbury Marsh is a five bedroom detached family home that was built six years ago in a popular village location. It is for sale through Woodhead Sales & Lettings at £379,950. Having enviable surrounding views of the open countryside, there are three reception rooms, a utility room, a downstairs WC, oil central heating, UPVC double glazing, double garage, off road parking and front and rear gardens. The entrance hall has under-floor heating and stairs off. The living room has under-floor heating, as does the dining room, which also has French doors out to a decked area. There is a further study with under-floor heating and a WC. The kitchen/breakfast room has tiled flooring with under-floor heating. There is also a conservatory, a utility, five bedrooms and a bathroom. For details contact Woodhead Sales and Lettings on 01691 680044 or visit www.woodheadsalesandlettings.com

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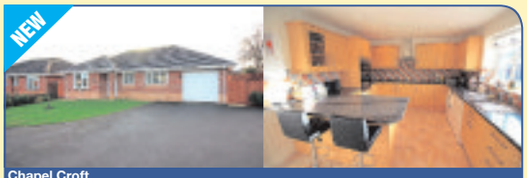
Hayes View
Oswestry **£315,000**

- Executive Detached Family Home situated in large plot in a private cul-de-sac
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge With double doors leading into Dining Rm, Conservatory
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room overlooks the garden to the rear
- Utility Area leading directly into the integrated Double Garage
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite & 3 other Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Well maintained and secure South facing rear garden
- Large tarmac driveway with views towards open countryside.

Weston Road
Morda **£219,000**

- Spacious 4 Bedroom Detached Family Property in a popular residential area
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Conservatory, Master Bedroom (en-suite)
- 3 further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom.
- Generous outside space with large patio area extending to rear and side
- Large lawned garden, single garage and parking
- Gas fired central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating



Chapel Croft
Weston Rhyn **£225,000**

- Superb 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow situated in a quiet residential area
- The property has been maintained to the highest of standards
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Dining Room
- Study Area, Conservatory, Master Bedroom (En-Suite)
- 2 further Bedrooms and Shower Room
- Large patio area and a good size lawned garden
- Tarmac driveway with adjoining ornamental lawn, Gas C/H and D/G

Lloyd Street
Oswestry **£127,995**

- A delightful 2 Bedroom Property situated on the fringe of the town centre
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen
- Lobby leading to useful Storage Room and Cloakroom
- Two good size bedrooms and the Bathroom
- Externally the property has a good size enclosed rear garden
- Gas central heating and double glazing are installed throughout
- An ideal first time buy or investment. EPC Rating D

Church Lane
St Martins **£125,000**

- A unique opportunity to purchase a block of development land with full planning permission for the construction of two detached family homes with garages
- The site is situated within walking distance of the popular village of St Martins. The land extends to (0.359 arces) or thereabout and set in an elevated position with views over open countryside
- The approved units have a internal floor area of (1224.50 sqf) per property & are partly serviced with a drainage system in place. Should be of interest to Builders, Developers and Self Builders.

Llwyn Crescent
Morda **£179,995**

- Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow situated in a quiet residential area of the popular village of Morda
- The property stands on a corner plot with front, side and rear gardens
- Driveway providing ample off-road parking and garage
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms and Wet Room.
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating

College Road
Oswestry **£134,995**

- A fully refurbished 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Living Room
- Kitchen/Dining Room, Utiliity
- 3 first floor Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

Donnett Mews
Whittington **£174,995**

- Delightful 3 Bedroom Barn Conversion
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge
- Kitchen, Dining Room
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden
- maintained to a high standard including re-carpeting and re-decoration.

Sycamore Close
St Martins **£199,995**

- A well situated Detached Family Home
- Reception Hall, Cloakroom, Kitchen/Dining Room
- Living/Dining Room, Lounge, Master Bedroom (en-suite)
- 3 further first floor Double Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Ample off road parking for at least 4 cars, large garage
- Private landscaped gardens to the front and rear
- Gas central heating and uPVC double glazing throughout.

Castle Street
Oswestry **£92,950**

- Deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Terraced House
- Situated close to Oswestry town centre and all amenities.
- The property contains a host of original features
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Cellar
- Kitchen, 2 good size Bedrooms, Bathroom and Attic Room.
- Externally the property has a PRIVATE slabbed courtyard style garden
- Gas central heating and partial double glazing

Croesaubach
Oswestry **£450,000**

- Spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Cottage/Smallholding
- With Outbuildings, Stables, Field Shelters and 10.75 Acres
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Garage & Ample Parking
- EPC Rating F

Pentre
Shrewsbury **£200,000**

- A superbly presented and spacious 2 Bedroom Detached House
- Situated approximately 2 miles from the popular village of Nesscliffe
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Cloakroom/WC
- Large Kitchen/Breakfast Room, 2 Double Bedrooms (en-suites)
- Large garden provides parking for several vehicles or caravan
- Double glazing and oil fired central heating. EPC Rating C
- NO CHAIN

Oswestry
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oswestry@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

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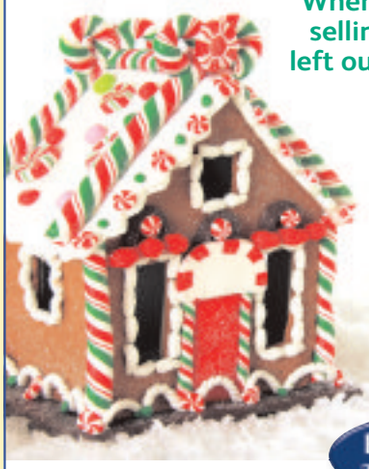

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New build is in the heart of picturesque valley

One of two new build properties in the heart of The Ceiriog Valley, Plot 1 New Houses, Dolywern, is for sale through Town & Country at £279,950. The property comprises an entrance hallway with a staircase off, a kitchen/breakfast room a good sized living room and a separate dining room with French doors out to a patio. The kitchen is fitted with a Burford cream kitchen base and wall units with complimentary tiling and work surfaces. There is a square bay window to the front.
The property also has an utility, four bedrooms, master en suite, and a family bathroom.
Each property has its own detached single garage with driveway providing parking for several cars and good sized rear gardens. For further information contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com

TOWN & COUNTRY

Home sits in a pleasant rural position

Julohn, 2 Bryngwilla, Rhyn Lane, St Martins, is a three bedroomed detached house occupying a pleasant rural position with opportunity for further improvement.
The property is for sale through JJ Dell & Co, there is no chain. The property is for sale for a guide price of £199,000.
Accommodation includes a reception hall, sitting room, living room, dining kitchen, three good sized bedrooms, bathroom and garaging and good sized garden.
The property is conveniently situated for St Martins which is two miles away, with its excellent local facilities, primary and secondary schooling, Stan's Superstore with petrol station and post office.
Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212 for more details.

J. J. DELL & Co.

J. J. DELL & Co.

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- Dining Room
- Lounge
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- Utility
- Good Sized Garden Plot
- EPC Band D

JJD902

GUIDE PRICE £294,950

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- Exceptionally Well Appointed Welsh Stone Cottage
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- Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Separate Garaging
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- Rear Terrace Garden
- EPC Band F

JJD901

GUIDE PRICE £195,000

CHIRK

- Investment Property Providing Income Of £475 pcm
- Two Bed. Modern House
- GFCH & DG
- Lounge & Dining Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Parking
- Quiet Cul De Sac Location
- Attractive Garden
- Open Rear Aspect
- EPC Band - D

JJD871

£119,950

GOBOWEN

- Detached Three Bedroomed Split Level House
- GFC/H, D/G
- Impressive Lounge
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Garage & Car Parking
- Attractive Patio Garden
- Elevated Position Overlooking Village
- EPC Band D

JJD781

£198,500

GOBOWEN

- Close Care Residential Bungalow
- Attractive Purpose Built Complex
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms
- Rear Enclosed Yard And Garage
- Short Walking Distance From Office
- EPC Band - F

JJD887

£109,950

GOBOWEN

- Attractive Detached Bungalow
- Walking Distance Of Village Facilities
- GFCH & PVC DG
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage & Parking
- South Facing Rear Garden
- EPC Band - D

JJD894

OFFERS IN REGION OF £152,000

GOBOWEN

- Well Appointed Four Bed. Detached House
- GFCH & PVC DG
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen Utility Cloakroom
- Conservatory
- Master Bed. En-Suite
- Garage And Car Parking
- Cul De Sac Location
- Backing Onto Open Fields
- EPC Band - C

JJD886

NO CHAIN £244,995

TREFONEN

- Most Attractive Village Property
- Large Garden And Paddock
- Uninterrupted South Facing Aspect
- Cloakroom
- Sitting Room And Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Side Entrance/Utility
- Four Beds (Master Bed. En Suite)
- Workshop, Double Garage, Outbuilding
- EPC Band F

JJD900

GUIDE PRICE £450,000

WHITTINGTON - TO LET

- Excellent Shop Premises
- Occupying Busy Trading Position
- Popular Village Of Whittington
- Former Barber's Shop
- Sales Area - 5 m x 2.65 m (19'7" x 10'4")
- External Cloakroom
- New Lease Available

JJD077

PER ANNUM £2,520

DEVELOPMENT SITE - HENGOED

- Site Extending To 0.8 Acres
- Property Occupied By Repairs Garage
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JJD893

£445,000

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- Close To Village Facilities
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- All Mains Services Available

JJD867

PLOTS 1 & 2 £110,000. PLOT 3 £115,000

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- Overall shop frontage - 19'
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1 Cambrian Terrace, Llansantffraid **£124,950**

Two bedroom end terrace house. LPG-fired central heating, double glazing. Multi-fuel stove to living room. Modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. Attractive enclosed rear garden with stores. On-site parking for at lease one vehicle. Well maintained accommodation throughout. EPC Rating = 26 (F)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

26 Cae Melin Avenue, Oswestry **£127,500**

Modern mid terrace house. Lounge, fitted kitchen and cloaks. Two bedrooms and bathroom. Lawned garden areas. Single garage and parking. Gas-fired central heating, double glazing. Available with no onward chain. EPC Rating = 83 (B)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

30 Bridge Street, Llanfyllin **£89,950**

Two bedroom mid terrace town house. Sitting room and fitted kitchen/breakfast. Ground floor fitted bathroom. Electric storage heaters and double glazing. Enclosed gravelled rear garden. Close to all town centre amenities. Available with No Onward Chain. Energy Efficiency Rating = 44 (E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

22 Ash Road, Oswestry **£82,500**

Mid terrace two bedroom house. Lounge and kitchen/breakfast room. First floor fitted bathroom. Partial double glazing. Electric storage heaters, radiant gas fire. Close to the town centre. Available with no upward chain. EPC Rating = 31 (F)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

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2 Bed 1st/Floor Flat, Elect/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=27) (£460 dep) ..... £350 pcm
2 Bed End-Ter House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=49) (£470 dep) ..... £370 pcm
2 Bed Mid-Ter House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=70) (£550) ..... £450 pcm
3 Bed 1st Floor Flat, Gas C/H, No Pets, (EER=61) (£600 dep) ..... £500 pcm

GOBOWEN

1 Bed Open Plan Flat, Elect/H. FTE, No Pets, (EER=68) (£350 dep) ..... £250 pcm
2 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=74)(£575 dep) ..... £475 pcm
3 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=52) (£595 dep) ..... £495 pcm
3 Bed House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets/Smokers, (EER=79) (£695 dep) ..... £575 pcm

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2 Bed End-Terrace, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=67) (£525dep) ..... £425 pcm

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Fees: Application Fee: £40. Lease Fee: £150 www.morrismarshall.co.uk

11 Parc Llwyfen, Llanymynech **£315,000**

Detached four bedroom house and garage. Two receptions, study, kitchen and utility. Family bathroom and en-suite shower. Gas-fired central heating, double glazing. Enclosed and well maintained rear garden. Pleasant recent established estate. Close to village amenities and A483. EPC Rating = 62 (D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

11 Glanlledan, Welshpool
£114,950

Modern Mid-Terrace House. Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Diner. 2 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Electric Heating. Fully Double Glazed. 2 Parking Spaces. Enclosed rear yard. Ideal for First Time Buyer/Investors. Within walking distance of the town centre. Energy efficiency rating = 68

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

30 Summerfield Close, Oswestry **£137,500**

Semi detached on cul-de-sac. Two reception rooms, three bedrooms. Ground floor cloakroom, first floor bathroom. Gas-fired central heating, double glazing. Driveway and car-port to side. Gardens to both front and rear. Available with no onward chain. EPC Rating = 62 (D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

4 Cliff View, Llanymynech
£95,000

Mid Terrace Village Cottage. Sitting Room , Kitchen/Dining Room. Two Bedrooms, Bathroom. Oil Fired Heating. Double Glazed. Detached garden to rear (100 sq.m approx). Situated off the village road. Convenient to Welshpool and Oswestry. Ideal First Time Buy/Buy to Let. Energy efficiency rating = 68 (D)

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CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094

Crochet has enjoyed a resurgence in popularity

Emma Manford helps out Heather Hodgson, Bridget Drukker and her daughter Florence Drukker at The Pincushion crochet workshop

Emma Manford from The Pincushion in Oswestry gives some guidance on crochet to Meryl Green and Hazel Hall

Crochet craze help is on hand

Report by Sue Austin

THEY are the latest craze – and now people are clamouring to learn the skills to create them.

Amigurumi are stuffed crochet toys – in all shapes, sizes and colours. The trend for the cute cuddly cartoon characters, animals and dolls has led to a rise in the number of people wanting to pick up a crochet hook and learn the art that their grandmother started to teach them as a child.

Pincushion in Oswestry has seen a jump in numbers of people who want to join the crochet craze.

Owner Emma Manford is now launching a weekly crochet club to make the craft more sociable and provide help to those who struggle with the craft.

Recently she hosted a crochet workshop at The Pincushion premises in Beatrice Street.

This will be followed up with the new club, which will begin on Friday next week and will run every Friday from 2pm to 4pm.

The cost of the drop-in club will be £5 an hour to include a drink and biscuits or cake.

Emma said: "Crochet is really popular at the moment particularly among the 25 to 35 age group and my crochet workshops are always full. At the beginners' workshops I teach people how to make a traditional 'granny square' and also a few other skills.

"There are some wonderful crochet toys being made at the moment in the Japanese style – amigurumi.

"Everyone seems to want to make them."

Although amigurumi – the Japanese for crocheted stuffed doll – has been popular in Japan for many decades, the trend only arrived in the west about 10 years ago.

"People of all ages are making them, from children to teenagers and adults," said Emma.

"Many people have not had the advantage of being taught by their grandparents to crochet or knit and so without the craft being handed down from generation to generation, my workshops are enabling them to learn the skill.

"At the crochet club I will be on hand to give advice and help people to follow a pattern, which can be the most difficult part of making something."

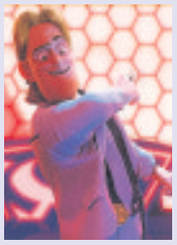
Heather Hodgson and Bridget Drukker at the crochet workshop

Examples of the work

Hazel Hall and Nicole Wirtherle at the crochet workshop

Cinema listings

CAPTURE THE FLAG (U)



Flying high – 6/10

When multi-billionaire Richard Carson announces his intention to fly to the moon to prove that the Apollo 11 mission was a hoax, the President of the United States hurriedly authorises a joint mission between existing and retired NASA experts to beat Carson to the Stars And Stripes planted in 1969. Ideal for young viewers, who dream of their own adventures.

RIDE ALONG 2 (12A)

Drive away – 3/10

This dim-witted cops and robbers caper lazily recycles the set-up of the original film and transplants the chaotic gun fights and male posturing to Miami. It opens with videogame addict Ben Barber (Kevin Hart) fresh out of the Police Academy and keen to prove himself on the mean streets of Atlanta – with consequences for, Detective Payton (Ice Cube).

THE BIG SHORT (15)

Palacial stuff – 9/10

Director Adam McKay draws inspiration from Michael Lewis' non-fiction account of the housing and credit bubble to dramatise the incredible true story of the men who made a killing by wagering against the US economy.

The Big Short is a blisteringly funny and provocative portrait of irresponsibility, fraud and gaudy excess, brought vividly to life by a superb ensemble cast.

THE REVENANT (15)

No compromise – 9/10

Leonardo Dicaprio plays 19th-century explorer Hugh Glass whose son is killed by members of his team and is himself left for dead. The explorer regains consciousness some time later and vows to hunt down the men who killed his boy. Multiple-Oscar nominated The Revenant is a gruelling two and a half hours in the company of a filmmaker who refused to compromise.

Story behind the scoop

Review by Damon Smith

AT its best, investigative journalism is a scalpel that slices through fatty rhetoric and cuts readers to the bones of institutions that should be defending our interests.

In early 2002, the Spotlight Investigations team of the Boston Globe ran a series of meticulously researched articles, exposing the sexual abuse of minors in the Boston archdiocese.

Coverage of the scandal rippled far beyond the city and compelled other victims to come forward, which sent shockwaves through the Roman Catholic Church.

The newspaper was subsequently awarded the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in Journalism for its courageous and comprehensive coverage, which lifted a heavy veil of secrecy stretching back several decades.

Thomas McCarthy's impeccably crafted drama pays tribute to the close-knit team of tenacious editors and reporters who tirelessly pursued the ugly truth.

Deputy managing editor Ben Bradlee Jr (John Slattery) presides over the Boston Globe newsroom and has direct responsibility for the Spotlight team led by Walter "Robby" Robinson (Michael Keaton).

Down in the basement, Robby and colleagues Michael Rezendes (Mark Ruffalo), Sacha Pfeiffer (Rachel McAdams) and Matt Carroll (Brian d'Arcy) invest thousands of man hours following leads.

Their work is valuable, but costly, and incoming Boston Globe editor Marty Baron (Liev Schreiber) makes clear he is willing to make difficult cuts.

"I'm focused on finding a way to make this paper essential to its readers," he tells Robby.

Attorney Mitchell Garabedian (Stanley Tucci) claims to have documents which prove Cardinal Bernard Law (Len Cariou) knew about abuse within the diocese and did nothing. Marty authorises Robby to quietly pursue the story before he is personally summoned to a meeting with the Cardinal.

"I find that this city flourishes when its great institutions work together," purrs the holy man.

"I'm of the opinion that for the paper to best perform its function, it needs to stand alone," boldly retorts Marty.

Battle lines are drawn and Robby pleads with his writers to keep their emotions in check as they are confronted with horrific stories of shattered innocence.

"I don't want the Chancery getting wind of this before we know what we have," he implores.

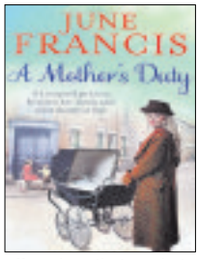
Spotlight is a clinical, precise and riveting dramatization of a bloody war of words in a city in the thrall of the church. The ensemble cast are exemplary.

Michael Keaton, Liev Schreiber, Mark Ruffalo, Rachel McAdams, John Slattery and Brian d'Arcy James in Spotlight

Book reviews

A MOTHER'S DUTY

By June Francis
Published by Ebury Press



Having been brought up in the port of Liverpool, author June Francis was more than qualified to bring tales of hardship and a battle for survival and love among its mean streets as in a world on the eve of war.

A wonderful family saga, it has hard working widow Kitty Ryan becoming torn between raising her three boys and the Arcadia Hotel almost single handedly, before being attracted to a surprise last chance at love.

With her life centring on work and family, John Mcleod, a giant of a man, offers her that rock to lean on that so many women still crave.

Facing opposition from her strong-willed boys, Kitty has to use all her skills and charms to keep everyone happy.

By Cathy Stanworth

UNTOUCHED DEPARTURES

By Olga Merrick
Published by Chadgreen Books

Do not, under any circumstance, arouse disapproval from Delia, star of this debut novel from a Telford author. If you do, your life is guaranteed to end somehow, in circumstances beyond anyone's control except Delia's.

The murderous wife goes on to become a murderous widow having had several husbands with whom she becomes displeased one way or another.

Even her children's detested partners are not immune to Delia's attentions and she manages to remove them with terrifying efficiency.

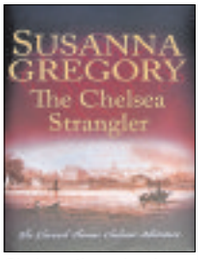
Eventually the law catches up with Delia and she is placed in a secure hospital.

I found it amusing, if a trifle predictable.

By Sally Bunn

THE CHELSEA STRANGLER

By Susanna Gregory
Published by Sphere



Historical mystery writer Gregory presents her eleventh book in the "Thomas Chaloner" series, set in Restoration London.

The Civil War is at an end and in London no-one seems to be celebrating a naval victory at the Battle of Lowestoft. The extreme summer heat is sapping everyone's energy and anyone with sufficient means, including the King and his retinue, has fled the capital. Those who remain are nervous, and wary of looters who will risk everything to plunder deserted homes. In Chelsea there is also a vicious killer stalking the neighbourhood, striking apparently at random, but it soon becomes very clear that the murderer has strong links to the prisoners of war.

By Sally Bunn

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London Theatre Breaks

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. Omega Holidays offer a superb portfolio of theatre breaks, managing the whole show package which includes travel, either by coach or rail, four-star accommodation and various price bands for each show. Self-drive breaks are also available to book.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two days
Saturday Night Theatre from £169.95

Enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a selection of London hotels to choose from (supplements may apply) and rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on Sunday

The ticket is for the Saturday evening.

Rail inclusive breaks – Three days
Theatre Showstopper from £239.95

This popular package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday returning on Sunday.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade, plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel (supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days
Saturday Night from £149.95
Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.95

Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket (option to upgrade) and an overnight stay in an outer London hotel. For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal, whereas the Saturday Night option is for the evening performance (meal not included).

Price includes:

- ✓ Return coach or rail travel
- ✓ One or two nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- ✓ Evening meal (with selected packages)
- ✓ Theatre ticket
- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Services of a tour driver
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Please note Star Reader Travel are unable to take bookings. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show — see brochure for details.*

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Entertainment

CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094

Peppa Pig and brother George are ready to come to Shropshire

Saba Douglas-Hamilton will tell theatre-goers of wildlife experiences

Famous TV faces are lined up to entertain

THERE will be some familiar faces heading to Shropshire in the coming months to entertain theatre-goers from Oswestry and Welshpool.

Award-winning stand-up comedian Alun Cochrane is set to raise the roof when he appears on stage at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn on April 14.

The comedian was praised for his show at Edinburgh Fringe Festival and will embark on a 25-date UK tour called A Show With A Man In It.

Audiences can expect jokes about manliness, womanliness, hobbies, ageing, fighting, perfume, beards, snoods, feminism, fundamentalism, and hopefully some profound understanding about life itself.

He is frequently on the radio, largely on Absolute where he is the full-time co-host for The Frank Skinner Show.

It was awarded the Best Speech Programme by the Radio Academy Award in 2014 and in 2015, attracted 700,000 weekly listeners and achieved six million podcast downloads.

In 2012, he received a Arqiva Award Best Newcomer nomination for his contributions to the show.

He also wrote and starred in his own BBC Radio 4 series, Alun Cochrane's Fun House, where he took listeners on a room by room stand-up tour of his house.

He has recently been seen on Have I Got News For You on BBC One and was a guest star in BBC One's comedy series Boomers. He also appeared in Russell Howard's A Gert Lush Christmas.

He has made TV appearances on programmes including Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, Mock The Week, Dave's One Night Stand, Never Mind The Buzzcocks and 8 Out Of 10 Cats and can regularly be heard on Just A Minute and The Now Show, with other radio credits including Dilemma, Loose Ends and Lee Mack And Friends.

Tickets for the show are available from the box office at Theatre Severn on (01743) 281281.

SPECIAL REPORT

By Naomi Penrose

Another well known TV face is also heading to Theatre Severn.

Renowned elephant conservationist and wildlife television presenter, Saba Douglas-Hamilton, will undertake a 15-date tour during April and May.

Known to millions of television viewers for This Wild Life and Big Cat Diaries, Saba will entertain audiences with exciting animal stories and intimate behind the scenes tales of life in Kenya with her young family.

The star will appear at Theatre Severn on April 16.

Saba was born in the Great Rift Valley in Kenya on June 7 at 7pm on the seventh day of the week and became the 7th grandchild in the family. Her name means 'seven' in Kiswahili. When she was six weeks old she met her first wild elephant, one of approximately 400 living in the Lake Manyara National Park in Tanzania that her father, Iain Douglas Hamilton, was studying.

In 1997 she joined her father's charity, Save The Elephants and whilst working in the Samburu National Reserve she was talent-spotted by the BBC beginning her life as a TV presenter and producer of wildlife documentaries.

Saba lives in Kenya with her husband and three children and runs the family's tented eco-lodge, Elephant Watch Camp. A 10 part BBC series about their lives in Samburu, This Wild Life, was broadcast on BBC2 throughout September.

And a TV face popular with youngsters will also be at Theatre Severn soon.

Peppa Pig, her brother George and their friends will appear on a brand new live stage show called Peppa Pig's Surprise.

Enjoy fun, games and of course, surprises in this charming, colourful new show with new songs and new life size puppets. Peppa and her friends will appear at Theatre Severn on February 24-25.

Alun Cochrane is well known for his TV and radio comedy

Eisteddfod favourites back for 70th anniversary celebration

THE first-ever choir to sing at the world-famous Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod will make a symbolic return to celebrate the festival's 70th year.

The Colne Valley Male Voice Choir, based in Huddersfield, has scooped six titles at the historic event over the years as well as five second places and two third prizes.

The 70-strong choir was the first to take to the Eisteddfod stage in 1947 up against choirs from Hungary, where the eventual winners came from, plus Spain, Italy, Denmark and Holland as well as Wales and England.

Now, seven decades later, representatives from the choir have been invited as special guests to the Choir of the World finals at the 70th staging of the iconic festival.

Although Colne Valley missed out on a prize in the first year it went on to claim a hat-trick of wins in the 1960s and has become one of the UK's most successful male voice choirs with a host of titles at home and abroad.

Choristors have sung without music sheets since Thom Meredith became the musical director as a 23-year-old in 1989 and have performed more than 300 different songs from memory in 26 years – a feat unlikely to have been replicated elsewhere.

The award-winning Colne Valley Male Voice Choir

Eilir Owen Griffiths, Eisteddfod musical director, said: "We'd be delighted to see the Colne Valley Choir here at the Eisteddfod again.

"They are part of the history of the event and there will always be a welcome in Llangollen for the choir which started the great tradition of the Choir of the World competition."

Returning to Llangollen will bring back happy memories for David Hirst, the second longest-serving member of the choir who joined aged 22 in November 1960.

"Obviously, we have a special association with the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and it will be an honour to return," he said.

"Meeting the other choirs and making friends is an important part of what we do.

"We have had exchange concert visits with Welsh and other choirs through competing and it is a great way get to know people.

"There's lots of camaraderie among choir singers."

The Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod has been held every summer since 1947 and is recognised as one of the world's most inspirational music festivals.

This year's event will feature star names Bryn Terfel, Katherine Jenkins and Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra.

For more information go to international-eisteddfod.co.uk

Star Reader Travel

For more information or for brochures contact the Promotions Team
Telephone: 01902 319999
Opening times: Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm
Online: www.starreadertravel.com

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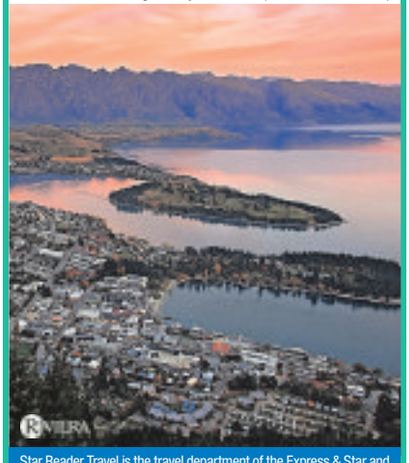
New for 2016, Riviera has introduced Australia to their portfolio. Here, there are plenty of things to see and do including the chance to visit Ayers Rock, spend time in Melbourne, Sydney and Cairns, and enjoy a catamaran cruise to the Great Barrier Reef.

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



Star Reader Travel is the travel department of the Express & Star and Shropshire Star.

Casualty
9.20pm
Ethan has managed to put aside his dissatisfaction with NHS restrictions, and is back in full swing in the ED. However, just as Ethan begins to settle back down to work, it appears his world is about to be shaken to its core. Medical drama, starring George Rainsford and Crystal Yu.

Dad's Army
8.25pm
Under Captain Square's influence, Mainwaring has too much to drink and suffers a terrible hangover during a weekend course – but still manages to save Jonesy's life. Comedy, first shown in 1970, starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier, Clive Dunn, John Laurie, James Beck and Ian Lavender.

Take Me Out
8pm
Paddy McGuinness provides four more potential suitors for his 30 single ladies. This time, the men braving the 'love lift' are James, a commodities trader from Leeds, Leamington Spa student Ben, Manchester-based circus performer Josh and Ian, a digital developer from Portsmouth.

Great Canal Journeys
7pm
Timothy West and Prunella Scales go to Ireland and travel along the Shannon Erne Waterway, a canal linking the North to the South. Along the way, they try some traditional dancing and folk singing, visit historic sites including Crom Castle, and meet a genealogist with a fascinating story to tell.

The Championship: Football League Tonight
9pm
George Riley and Kelly Cates present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship, which included Burnley v Hull City and Middlesbrough v Blackburn Rovers. Plus, a round-up of all the goals and interviews with players and managers.

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.**
10.00 **Saturday Kitchen Live.** Ken Hom and Ching-He Huang join James Martin as he challenges musician Chris Isaak to face his food heaven or hell. Plus, Olly Smith is on hand to provide the wine tips.
11.30 **Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking.** A selection of comforting home-cooked dishes, including roast butternut squash soup ,a warming Mexican tortilla bake a chicken casserole, and a creme caramel. (R)
12.00 **BBC News;** Weather.
12.10 **Football Focus.** Dan Walker previews the weekend's Premier League fixtures, including Chelsea v Manchester United and Bournemouth v Arsenal. Plus, news from Manchester City v Leicester City.
12.50 **Saturday Sportsday.** A look ahead at the day's events.
1.00 **Bargain Hunt.** Tim Wonnacott presents from Builth Wells, Powys, where experts David Harper and Jonathan Pratt help two teams search for antiques. (R)
1.30 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** France v Italy (Kick-off 2.25pm). Gabby Logan is joined by Thomas Castaignede and Keith Wood to present the opening match of this year's championship, staged at the Stade de France.
4.30 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Scotland v England (Kick-off 4.50pm). John Inverdale is at Murrayfield to introduce coverage of the Calcutta Cup tie, as the rivals play their first match of this year's tournament.
6.55 **BBC News.**
7.05 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
7.15 **The Voice UK.** Vangelis from London and 19-year-old Durham busker Chloe Castro are among the contestants taking to the stage in the fifth round of "blind auditions".
8.30 **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** New series. The dream prize game show returns. Plus, Ronan Keating also performs, and joins Gaby Roslin to push the button in the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws.
9.20 **Casualty.** Ethan is back in full swing in the ED, working together with Lily to help a girl with autism get the family support she needs, but a shocking upheaval is just around the corner.
10.10 **BBC News;** Weather.
10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Leicester City and Stoke City v Everton; **National Lottery Update.**
11.55 **Race to Super Bowl 50.** Mark Chapman presents a preview of Super Bowl 50, which will see Denver Broncos face Carolina Panthers at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. (R)
12.25 FILM: **Man of the Year (2006).** A talk-show host is elected president, but faces a moral dilemma when he learns his victory was caused by a computer error. Comedy, with Robin Williams and Christopher Walken.
2.15 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
2.20 **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.15 FILM: **Tension at Table Rock (1956).** Western, starring Richard Egan.
7.45 FILM: **The Red Beret (1953).** Second World War adventure, starring Alan Ladd.
9.10 **Animal Park.** Keepers perform a Caesarean section on a giraffe. (R)
10.10 **Homes Under the Hammer.** (R)
11.10 **Natural World.** (R)
12.00 **James Martin: Home Comforts.** The chef serves up two different dishes using the same ingredients. (R)
12.45 **Rick Stein's India.** The chef explores the country's cuisine. (R)
1.45 **Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman.** Carol Kirkwood reminisces about a holiday in St Helier, Jersey, in 1973. (R)
2.30 **Escape to the Country.** Nicki Chapman and Jonnie Irwin revisit couples looking for homes in the West Country. (R)
3.30 **Flog It!** From Crathes Castle in Aberdeenshire. (R)
4.30 **Final Score.** A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
5.25 **Earth's Greatest Spectacles.** The transition from summer to autumn in the New England region of the United States. (R)
6.25 **Back in Time for the Weekend.** A family embarks on an experiment to give up their 21st century technology and travel back in time to discover the radical transformation of leisure time since 1950. (R)
7.25 **King George and Queen Mary: The Royals Who Rescued the Monarchy.** Part two of two. Queen Mary's rise to the throne from a comparatively low position within the royal hierarchy, after being selected for the role by Queen Victoria. (R)
8.25 **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring has too much to drink during a weekend course with Captain Square, but still manages to save Jonesy's life. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)
9.00 **The Real Marigold Hotel.** The group settle into life in their base in Jaipur, India, as Wayne Sleep and Bobby George have a cut-throat shave and a trip to the Taj Mahal brings Miriam Margolyes to tears. (R)
10.00 **Live at the Apollo.** Romesh Ranganathan comperes an evening of stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing himself and introducing routines by guests Jason Byrne and Stewart Francis. (R)
10.45 **Insert Name Here.** Comedy panel game in which host Sue Perkins asks teams captained by Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe to answer questions about famous people who share a name. (R)
11.15 FILM: **Tim (1979).** A wealthy middle-aged businesswoman forms a relationship with the learning-disabled younger man she hires to tend her garden. Romantic drama, starring Mel Gibson and Piper Laurie.
1.00 FILM: **My Afternoons with Margueritte (2010).** Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Gerard Depardieu.
2.15 **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV:** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge **6.25** Pat & Stan **6.35** Dino Dan **6.45** Dino Dan **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.05** Sooty **7.15** Super 4
7.30 **Scrambled!: Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.
7.35 **Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** Chaotic cartoon capers, voiced by Rowan Atkinson. (R)
7.50 **Scrambled!: Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster. (R)
8.10 **Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy.
8.30 **Scrambled!: Jessie.** Disney sitcom, starring Debby Ryan.
9.05 **Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
9.25 **ITV News.**
9.30 **Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica investigates the death of an accountant. (R)
10.20 **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** The host takes his successful talk show stateside.
11.15 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences.
12.15 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
12.20 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences.
1.25 **Judge Rinder.** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
2.25 **Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
3.30 **Doc Martin.** A schoolgirl develops a crush on the doctor. (R)
4.30 **The Martin Lewis Money Show.** Tips on how to earn up to six per cent interest on savings. (R)
5.00 **The Chase.** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
6.00 **ITV News Central;** Weather.
6.15 **ITV News and Weather.**
6.30 **New You've Been Framed!** More comical mishaps, including a building crushing a luxury sports car and a tree that manages to topple a motorcyclist.
7.00 **Ninja Warrior UK.** Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara host the second semi-final, challenging more returning contestants to face the infamous obstacle course once again.
8.00 **Take Me Out.** A commodities trader, a student, a circus performer and a digital developer try to impress Paddy McGuinness's 30 single ladies.
9.20 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host subjects another batch of celebrity guests to no-holds-barred questioning. Plus, musical performances by A-list bands and solo artists.
10.20 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
10.40 FILM: **Jurassic Park III (2001).** Dr Alan Grant is lured to a dinosaur-infested island by a divorced couple searching for their missing son. Action adventure sequel, starring Sam Neill, William H Macy and Tea Leoni.
12.15 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 **Murder, She Wrote.** A suspicious death hinders a treasure hunt. (R)
3.50 **ITV Nightscreen.**

Channel 4

6.15 **How I Met Your Mother.** Robin tries to find a job. (R)
6.40 **The King of Queens.** Carrie wins four basketball season tickets. (R)
7.05 **The King of Queens.** Carrie cooks for Deacon. (R)
7.30 **The King of Queens.** Doug and Deacon fight over a toy. (R)
7.55 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Marie tries to put Amy in her place. (R)
8.25 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Michael stays home from school. (R)
9.00 **The Morning Line.** Racing preview with Rishi Persad.
10.00 **Frasier.** Niles becomes jealous of a dog-lover. (R)
10.30 **Frasier.** The shrink's trip to Belize is over-subscribed. (R)
11.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Penny appears in a musical. (R)
11.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Penny volunteers to nurse Sheldon. (R)
12.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon feels threatened by a teenage prodigy. (R)
12.30 **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD.** Coulson joins forces with Rosalind to track down the Inhuman killer.
1.30 **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Sandown Park, Ffos Las and Wetherby.
4.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Dry-cleaning manager Valerie hosts the first dinner party in Lancashire. (R)
4.25 **Come Dine with Me.** Dance teacher Nicky hosts the second night in Lancashire. (R)
5.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Outsourcing manager Steve hosts the third night in Lancashire. (R)
5.30 **Come Dine with Me.** The fourth night of the competition in Lancashire. (R)
6.00 **Come Dine with Me.** It is the final dinner party in Lancashire and the turn of sales manager Andy to host. He is confident in his locally sourced menu, but faces the challenge of impressing Nicky. (R)
6.30 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales travel along the Shannon Erne Waterway, a canal linking Northern and Southern Ireland, and visit historic sites along the way. Last in the series. (R)
8.00 **Walking Through Time.** Palaeontologist Dr Tori Herridge investigates how, 450,000 years ago, a mega-flood destroyed a massive chalk land-bridge that once connected Britain to continental Europe.
9.00 FILM: **Prisoners (2013).** Premiere. The distraught father of a missing child kidnaps a man he believes is responsible for her disappearance. Thriller, starring Hugh Jackman, Jake Gyllenhaal and Paul Dano.
12.00 FILM: **Friday the 13th (2009).** Horror remake, starring Jared Padalecki.
1.45 **Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. Jade is terrified about her first chemotherapy session. (R)
3.55 **Undercover Boss Canada.** (R)
4.45 **Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites.** (R)
4.55 **Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** (R)
5.50 **How I Met Your Mother.** (R)

Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!:** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.15** Bob the Builder **6.30** Tickety Toc **6.40** Zack and Quack **6.50** Roobarb and Custard Too **7.00** Make Way for Noddy **7.10** Paw Patrol **7.25** Little Princess **7.40** Pip Ahoy! **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.30** Wanda and the Alien **8.45** Toby's Travelling Circus
8.55 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R)
9.30 **The Saturday Show.**
11.35 **Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops.** (R)
12.00 **Police Interceptors.** Officers deal with a rowdy reveller on New Year's Eve. (R)
1.00 **Police Interceptors.** Barry Peach apprehends a fugitive who has been using a false identity. (R)
2.00 **Now That's Funny!** Internet-sourced videos with an amusing family friendly hook. (R)
3.00 **Benefits, Babies & Jail.** People living on the dole in South Yorkshire. (R)
4.00 **Benefits: Can't Work, Won't Work.** (R)
5.00 **Benefits: 19 Kids and Counting the Cost.** (R)
6.00 **Celebs on Benefits: Fame to Claim.** (R)
6.55 **5 News Weekend.**
7.00 **World War II in Colour.** Examining Mussolini's decision to push Italy's forces into North Africa, and looking at the air and sea battles for control of the strategically vital Mediterranean island of Malta. (R)
8.00 **America's Hidden Pyramid City: Ancient Mysteries.** A team of experts uses cutting-edge technology to examine the history of an ancient Native American civilisation that built a metropolis in what is now Illinois. (R)
9.00 **The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship, which included Burnley v Hull City and Middlesbrough v Blackburn Rovers.
10.00 **Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, as well as a look at the latest league tables.
10.30 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** The detectives are forced to rely on an officer from another district when a rape victim refuses to talk to anyone but him, while introductions to the new ADA go badly. (R)
11.25 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** An ex-financier is questioned about the murder of his girlfriend – but the focus of the investigation gradually shifts to the CEO of a dating website. Guest starring Eric McCormack. (R)
12.15 **SuperCasino.**
3.10 **Celebrity Botched Up Bodies.** (R)
4.00 **Celebrity Big Brother: The Good, the Bad and the Outrageous.** (R)
4.50 **House Doctor.** (R)
5.20 **House Doctor.** (R)
5.45 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)
5.50 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)

Call the Midwife

8pm

A young man from Poplar is delighted to be accepted into university, but his mother is less than happy. His dreams are jeopardised when his girlfriend gets pregnant. Sister Julienne is seconded to a maternity ward, and is impressed by how modern technology is being used to help the mothers.

James May's Cars of the People

9pm

James looks into some of the planned new directions in motoring that never caught on, revealing how the petrol engine came to dominate motoring in the 20th century, while concepts for jet engines and steam power fell by the wayside. He also drives an amphibious car and an electric scooter.

Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands

7pm

Slean's intended bride arrives in Herot, but he has other things on his mind than marriage. He cannot forget the ideas his uncle has placed in his mind, and is torn between his loyalty to his mother in spite of the sacrifices she asks of him and his own ambitions.

Deutschland 83

9pm

Moritz recuperates after the transplant, and decides to remain at home. However, both Annett and Schweppenstette are adamant that he must return to his assignment in the West. Alex Edel takes General Jackson hostage and forces him to denounce military plans in Western Europe.

The Internship

9pm

Premiere. Two old-fashioned salesmen find their careers derailed by changes in technology. They nevertheless manage to get internships at an internet company, but face a battle to come to terms with modern business methods. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn, Owen Wilson and Rose Byrne.

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.**
7.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Leicester City and Stoke City v Everton. (R)
9.00 **The Andrew Marr Show.**
10.00 **The Big Questions.** Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions on topical issues from King Edward VI School, Southampton.
11.00 **Sunday Politics West Midlands.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
12.15 **Bargain Hunt.** Two teams compete at the Derby Roundhouse. (R)
1.00 **BBC News;** Weather.
1.15 **Homes Under the Hammer.** Dion Dublin, Lucy Alexander and Martin Roberts examine a three-bedroom semi in London, a small piece of land in Kent, and a small house with a large garden in Cheshire. (R)
2.15 **Escape to the Country.** Two couples look for rural homes in North Yorkshire, while Jules Hudson visits Richmond Castle and Nicki Chapman helps to restore a historic stained glass window. (R)
3.15 **The Great Sport Relief Bake Off.** Four more celebrities face three challenges. (R)
4.15 **Songs of Praise.** A celebration of Chinese New Year.
4.50 **Pointless Celebrities.** Famous faces including Bill Oddie, John Craven, Shauna Lowry and Helen Skelton compete. (R)
5.35 **Nature's Miracle Orphans.** New series. Efforts to save orphaned animals in Costa Rica and Zimbabwe.
6.35 **BBC News.**
6.50 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
7.00 **Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison and Matt Baker explore Tyne and Wear, visiting a lighthouse and a park built on an old mine. Olympic boxer Nicola Adams reveals her favourite countryside destination. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.
8.00 **Call the Midwife.** Sister Julienne has an eye-opening experience on a maternity ward, and a young man from Poplar is accepted into university – but an unexpected development threatens his dreams.
9.00 **War and Peace.** The Rostovs flee Moscow as the French army attacks the city, but Pierre remains behind to fight, leading to an experience that changes his outlook on life. Last in the series.
10.20 **BBC News.**
10.40 **Midlands Today; Weather.**
10.50 **Match of the Day 2.** Jason Mohammad reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Chelsea v Manchester United at Stamford Bridge and Bournemouth v Arsenal at Dean Court.
11.55 FILM: **In the Valley of Elah (2007).** The father of a missing soldier suspects the army is covering up the reasons behind his son's disappearance. Drama, starring Tommy Lee Jones, Charlize Theron and Susan Sarandon.
1.45 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
1.50 **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.05 **The A to Z of TV Gardening.** Carol Kirkwood looks at subjects beginning with the letter L. (R)
6.50 **The A to Z of TV Gardening.** Carol Kirkwood looks at subjects beginning with the letter M. (R)
7.35 **The Secret History of the British Garden.** Monty Don examines gardening in the 18th century. (R)
8.35 **Countryfile.** A round-up on how winter is affecting rural areas. (R)
9.30 **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Highlights of the series.
11.00 **Best Bakes Ever.** A selection of recipes from television chefs. (R)
11.45 **Race to Super Bowl 50.** A preview of Super Bowl 50, between Denver Broncos and Carolina Panthers. (R)
12.15 **MOTD2 Extra.** With Will Perry and the Match of the Day team.
1.00 FILM: **We Dive at Dawn (1943).** Second World War adventure, starring John Mills.
2.35 FILM: **None But the Brave (1965).** Second World War adventure, starring Frank Sinatra.
4.15 **Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best?** Part one of two. Chris Packham and Liz Bonnin put cats and dogs head to head. (R)
5.15 **Flog It!** The team heads to Exmouth, Devon. (R)
6.15 **Ski Sunday.** Including action from the men's World Cup downhill competition in Jeongseon, South Korea, which is set to be one of the host venues at the 2018 Winter Olympics.
7.00 **Six Nations Highlights.** John Inverdale presents action from the opening round of the 2016 championship, featuring Scotland v England, Ireland v Wales and France v Italy.
8.00 **Greece with Simon Reeve.** Part one of two. The presenter takes a tour of Greece, travelling from the islands of the Aegean to Athens and learning how the Greek people are coping with their country's crises.
9.00 **James May's Cars of the People.** James looks into some of the planned new directions in motoring that never caught on, driving an amphibious car and an electric scooter, and taking a ride in a driverless car. Last in the series.
10.00 **Patrick Kielty's Mulholland Drive.** A journey to find the truth about William Mulholland, who was responsible for building Los Angeles' water infrastructure and providing a water supply that allowed the city to grow.
10.50 **NFL Live: Super Bowl 50.** Denver Broncos v Carolina Panthers (Kick-off 11.30pm). Coverage of the 50th staging of the showpiece event, from Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.
3.30 **Sign Zone: Countryfile.** A round-up on how winter is affecting rural areas, featuring reports on hill farming, migrating birds, hybrid wolves that have adapted to the cold, cod fishing and endangered sheep. (R)
4.30 **Sign Zone: Holby City.** When an Army medic arrives on Darwin, tensions run high for Guy and Ollie. (R)
5.30 **This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 **CITV:** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge **6.25** Pat & Stan **6.35** Dino Dan **6.45** Dino Dan **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.05** Sooty **7.15** Super 4
7.30 **Scrambled!: Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.
7.35 **Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** Chaotic cartoon capers, voiced by Rowan Atkinson. (R)
7.50 **Scrambled!: Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster. (R)
8.10 **Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy.
8.30 **Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School.** Children are taught to survive in the wild.
9.05 **Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
9.25 **FIA Formula E Championship.** The Buenos Aires ePrix.
10.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** The host takes his successful talk show stateside.
11.20 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
12.20 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
12.30 **Off Their Rockers.** A pensioner auditions for Britain's Got Talent. (R)
1.00 **Ninja Warrior UK.** Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara host the second semi-final. (R)
2.00 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Ireland v Wales (Kick-off 3.00pm).
5.15 **Catchphrase.** Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (R)
6.00 **ITV News Central;** Weather.
6.15 **ITV News and Weather.**
6.30 **Planet's Got Talent.** Featuring a human cannonball, a high-wire motorbike display, a whip-cracking cowboy, a death-defying acrobat and a performer who slices flying fruit. Narrated by Warwick Davis.
7.00 **Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands.** Slean's intended bride arrives in Herot, but his mind is elsewhere as he is torn between his loyalty to his mother and his own lust for power.
8.00 **Vera.** The detective investigates the discovery of a homeless young man's body in an area notorious for illicit teenage gatherings, and tries to discover how he ended up on the streets.
10.00 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
10.15 **Rookies.** Documentary filmed over the course of a year following trainee police officers from the Lincolnshire force, charting their progress as they venture out onto the streets. (R)
11.15 **Premiership Rugby Union.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 11th round of fixtures, including Bath v Gloucester, Harlequins v Northampton Saints, and Exeter Chiefs v Saracens.
12.10 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.
5.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

Channel 4

6.15 **How I Met Your Mother.** Ted meets a former girlfriend. (R)
6.40 **The King of Queens.** Doug sees a therapist about his eating habits. (R)
7.05 **The King of Queens.** Doug organises a Super Bowl party. (R)
7.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert and Amy annoy Ray and Debra. (R)
7.55 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Gianni infuriates Debra. (R)
8.30 **Frasier.** Part one of two. A romantic dilemma troubles Frasier. (R)
9.00 **Frasier.** Part two of two. The shrink contemplates ending his relationship with Claire. (R)
9.30 **Sunday Brunch.** With Martin Kemp.
12.30 **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** A couple seeking to breathe new life into a Dutch barge with low ceilings. (R)
1.30 **Location, Location, Location.** The property experts visit south London. (R)
2.35 FILM: **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009).** Comedy, starring Zachary Levi.
4.15 **The Simpsons.** Homer helps Moe defraud his insurance company. (R)
4.45 **The Simpsons.** Lisa fears she is destined to be stupid. (R)
5.15 **Channel 4 News.**
5.35 FILM: **X-Men (2000).** Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Hugh Jackman.
7.30 **The Jump.** The 11 remaining contestants compete in the Snow Cross, with the losers of each race facing a super-sized ski jump to determine who will be eliminated. Davina McCall presents.
9.00 **Deutschland 83.** Moritz wants to remain at home, but Annett and Schweppenstette urge him to return to the West. Alex Edel takes General Jackson hostage and forces him to denounce US plans.
10.00 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Sean Lock and Isy Suttie compete against Jon Richardson and Richard Osman in the words-and-numbers quiz, while Alex Horne and the Horne Section help out in Dictionary Corner. (R)
11.05 FILM: **Alien 3 (1992).** Officer Ripley is marooned on an all-male prison planet, where she again faces her extraterrestrial arch-enemy. Sci-fi thriller sequel, with Sigourney Weaver and Charles Dance.
1.05 **Embarrassing Bodies: Back to the Clinic.** The doctors invite back some of their most memorable patients. (R)
2.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Landscape gardener Greg Basire hosts the first dinner party in west London. (R)
2.30 **Come Dine with Me.** Hugo Preece hosts the second party in west London. (R)
2.55 **Come Dine with Me.** Sabrina Ghayour plans an ambitious Persian menu. (R)
3.20 **Come Dine with Me.** Amii van Amerongen hosts the penultimate dinner party in west London. (R)
3.50 **Come Dine with Me.** (R)
4.15 **Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** The property expert helps homeowners in Leeds. (R)
5.10 **Deal or No Deal.** Beat-the-banker game show. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!:** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.15** Angelina Ballerina **6.30** Bob the Builder **6.45** Tickety Toc **6.55** Zack and Quack **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too **7.15** Make Way for Noddy **7.25** Paw Patrol **7.40** Little Princess **7.50** Pip Ahoy! **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.50** Wanda and the Alien **9.05** Toby's Travelling Circus **9.20** Jelly Jamm **9.30** LazyTown
9.55 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** April and Leo must save Casey, Raph, Mikey and Donnie. (R)
10.30 **The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Highlights and all the goals from the Championship. (R)
11.30 **Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** A round-up of all the goals from League One and League Two. (R)
12.00 **Police Interceptors.** Jon Moon and his dog Kanto chase down burglary suspects. (R)
12.55 **Police Interceptors.** Barry Peach outsmarts a disqualified driver. (R)
1.55 FILM: **My Favorite Martian (1999).** Sci-fi comedy, starring Christopher Lloyd.
3.40 FILM: **Three Men and a Little Lady (1990).** Comedy sequel, starring Tom Selleck.
5.35 **5 News Weekend.**
5.40 FILM: **Little Nicky (2000).** Comedy fantasy, starring Adam Sandler.
7.15 FILM: **Zoolander (2001).** A dim male model's career starts to decline and he fails to realise he is a pawn in a dangerous game of international espionage. Comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson. Edited for sexual content and language.
9.00 FILM: **The Internship (2013).** Premiere. Two old-fashioned salesmen must get to grips with technology and the modern world when they start work at an internet company. Comedy, with Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson.
11.20 FILM: **The Green Hornet (2011).** A playboy media-mogul becomes a masked crime-fighter, with the help of his kung fu expert chauffeur. Comic-book adventure, starring Seth Rogen, Jay Chou and Cameron Diaz.
1.35 **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10 **America's Hidden Pyramid City: Ancient Mysteries.** The rise and fall of a Native American civilisation. (R)
4.00 **Wildlife SOS.** The work of a wildlife sanctuary. (R)
4.25 **House Doctor.** A Merseyside property gets a makeover. (R)
4.50 **House Doctor.** Ann Maurice visits Southampton's marina development Ocean Village. (R)
5.20 **House Doctor.** Advice for a couple desperate to sell their Bournemouth home. (R)
5.45 **Angels of Jarm.** Otto forgets to feed the class guinea pigs. (R)
5.50 **Angels of Jarm.** Ellie sets out to help a boy who thinks he is no good at anything. (R)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tourism boss tells of big rally boost

A TOURISM chief has welcomed the national exposure that this year's MSA British Rally Championship (BRC) is going to give to the towns, villages and stunning countryside of Mid Wales.

The BRC, which opens with the Mid Wales Stages Rally based in Newtown from March 5 to 6, will return to terrestrial TV screens after concluding a deal with Channel 4 to cover the seven-round series. The country's premier rally championship will also be shown on BT Sport as part of a new broadcast package.

In the summer, the BRC is back in Mid Wales for the Nicky Grist Stages based at Builth Wells from July 9 to 10, and the Wales Rally GB from October 27 to 30 attracts international coverage.

Val Hawkins, chief executive of Mid Wales Tourism, an independent organisation that represents around 600 tourism and hospitality businesses in Mid Wales, said the national coverage given to the rally was "fantastic news" for the region.

"Mid Wales is now world famous for hosting motorsport events and the television coverage that they attract, which represents many thousands of pounds of free marketing, is fantastic for the region's profile," she said.

Last month Channel 5 confirmed that it will broadcast television coverage of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), including Wales Rally GB.

Experts help for Future Fit

ACCOUNTANTS from London have been brought in to help shape the future of Shropshire's accident and emergency departments.

Experts have from international auditing company Pricewaterhouse Coopers have been asked to work with the Future Fit NHS review.

They will provide an independent assessment of the financial state of services across the county – and how affordable suggested changes to care are.

Future Fit is leading a review that will almost certainly lead to the closure of an A&E unit at either Telford's Princess Royal Hospital or Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Pricewaterhouse Coopers, known as PWC, will look at the financial implications of the changes to A&E.

But this is only a part of a far wider review in which the company's accountants will look at the cost of NHS services across Shropshire as a whole.

NHS officials refused to say how much PWC was being paid to audit services in Shropshire.

The move comes after the Future Fit review stalled last year as further work was needed to address a £20 million-plus deficit for health services in Shropshire.

Students' tour of race car factory

A GROUP of budding racing engineers were taken to a Formula 1 factory for a day of engineering insight.

The group from North Shropshire College included 14 students who fought off tough competition to win the trip in a competition held by Randstad Student Support at the Association of Colleges conference held in November.

Randstad Student Support worked with 65 further education colleges and 93 universities around the UK last year, providing support for 28,000 students.

All the students on the tour are currently studying either engineering or mechanics at the college and were given a glimpse into the working of the garages in Oxfordshire.

Students also got the chance to prove their racing credentials and try to beat the best of F1 drivers on a reaction machine. And the final pit stop was to the Williams museum to check out the trophy collection. Sadie Besley, operations director at Randstad Student Support, said: "This competition was all about inspiring innovation in students and giving them a glimpse into a potential career in engineering."

Why PM is on grand tour of Europe

● ***What are the EU negotiations about?***

The Tories pledged to hold a referendum back in 2013, when the Conservatives were coming under increased pressure from Ukip. David Cameron said a poll would be held on EU membership before the end of 2017 if he won the forthcoming election. He promised he would renegotiate Britain's relationship with the European Union and put it to the country in the referendum.

The subsequent election win made his pledge a promise that he could keep and it has taken up an increasing part of his workload. He has embarked on a gruelling round of European capitals, as well as countless telephone calls with the EU leaders, attempting to win backing for four key demands.

● ***What concessions do the UK want from the EU?***

David Cameron wants more powers for the House of Commons and other national parliaments to block proposed EU legislation which they view as unnecessary or unwanted. He is also calling for greater protection from EU member states outside the eurozone from decisions taken by countries with the single currency. Thirdly, he says red tape should be cut to boost competitiveness across Europe. And he has called for a limit on in-work benefits paid to EU migrants working in Britain.

● ***What has happened so far?***

Negotiations between the UK and the EU have been protracted and hugely complex. Two of Mr Cameron's demands – on vetoing unwanted EU laws and increasing competitiveness – have been broadly welcomed by other leaders, but the proposals on the eurozone and (in particular) migrants' benefits have run into strong opposition.

On eurozone, George Osborne has pressed for greater protection for the nine countries outside the euro. Britain is calling for powers to stop eurozone laws that could affect countries with their own currencies. It is effectively attempting to safeguard the City of London from interference from Europe's other financial centres.

● ***How is migration part of the equation in Europe?***

Mr Cameron wants a four-year ban on EU nationals receiving in-work benefits. This is a key element in his policy of tackling Britain's migration "pull-factor". But many European countries are unhappy. They feel it undermines the EU's basic principle of freedom of movement and is discriminatory.

The European Commission has suggested an alternative scheme under which an "emergency brake" on welfare payments to EU workers could be triggered if a nation can demonstrate migration levels are putting public services under impossible strain.

● ***What has happened this week?***

Donald Tusk, the European Council president, has published his proposals for a "new settlement" between Britain and the EU. He believes it can be the basis of a lasting deal, but warns there are still unresolved issues to be addressed. He says the proposed emergency welfare brake will allow national governments to impose a four-year restriction on migrants claiming in-work benefits, but proposes migrant workers should be allowed to have benefits phased in over the four-years.

But it leaves open the question of how long the brake can remain in place.

The document makes clear that EU states are entitled to refuse access "on preventative grounds" to people likely to threaten national security, even if the threat is not imminent. It also allows member states to tackle the use of fraud or sham marriages to gain the right to enter and remain.

It makes clear that non-euro states are not required to help bail out single currency members which get into trouble, and proposes a new mechanism for non-euro states to "escalate" concerns about possible discrimination in favour of the eurozone for discussion by the full European Council, as the Prime Minister has demanded.

The draft blueprint makes clear that the proposals would come into force immediately after the UK votes in favour of remaining in the EU.

County MPs are lukewarm over draft EU agreement

By Mark Andrews

IT is a package of reforms designed to persuade Britain to vote to stay in Europe.

But today the response from David Cameron's own MPs in Shropshire and Mid Wales was decidedly lukewarm.

Mr Cameron said the draft agreement thrashed out with European Council president Donald Tusk would allow the UK to be "better off, more secure, more prosperous" as a member of the 28-nation bloc, as he set the scene for an in-out referendum within a matter of months.

The Prime Minister said the proposals were "something worth fighting for", and were good enough that he "sure would" back Britain joining the EU under these terms, if it was not already a member. But North Shropshire MP and former minister Owen Paterson was quick to dismiss the effort.

As late June emerged as a probably referendum date, the well-established eurosceptic, tweeted: "What a wasted opportunity! I can't believe Number 10 think they can win by selling this as fundamental renegotiation."

Telford's Lucy Allan, who recently suggested she would vote to leave the EU, said she would be reading the report with interest – but added that so far she was not convinced the changes were radical enough.

Ludlow MP Philip Dunne, Shrewsbury's Daniel Kawczynski and Montgomeryshire's Glyn Davies said they were still to make up their mind about how they would vote, while North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson has already declared he will be campaigning to leave the European Union. The Wrekin's Mark Pritchard has said he will be voting to stay.

The proposed changes offer an "emergency brake" on migrant welfare, protections for non-eurozone states and a legal-binding assurance that the UK is not expected to pursue integration through "ever-closer union".

Mr Cameron said they offered Britain "the best of both worlds" by giving it access to the single market and a voice around the table of the European Council, while allowing it to remain outside the euro and the Schengen border-free area. Mr Davies said the agreement was what he had expected, but said he would be taking his time before coming to a decision.

"I think it's a successful negotiation. It's exactly what I had expected. There's no surprises and I think the Prime Minister is a highly competent negotiator," he said.

"I have also been a very committed eurosceptic, and I'm still not certain what I will be doing. I am going to take my time, and will decide much later on which way I will vote."

Mr Dunne, who is a defence minister, said he would be reading the draft agreement with care. "It seems to propose significant changes to the UK relationship with the EU," he said. "This is an important step in the renegotiation, but I shall await the final outcome before making up my mind whether to vote to remain or to leave in the forthcoming referendum."

Mr Kawczynski said the deal appeared to be positive, and believed it would reduce the present unmanageable net migration levels.

I want out of EU – Telford MP Lucy Allan

Out – North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson

Stay in EU – Wrekin MP Mark Pritchard

Not decided – MP Daniel Kawczynski

Not decided – Ludlow MP Philip Dunne

Not decided – Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies

"It is also vital we remain exempt from the drive for 'ever closer union' and the red-card system, which I will look at more closely, does appear on the face of things to be an encouraging step towards greater roles for sovereign Parliaments like our own," he said.

"Many have expressed their regret that the Prime Minister did not go further in these negotiations in terms of what he sought from the EU and I have some sympathy with this view. I will take time to digest the deal and will consult with my association before coming to a decision on whether Britain should leave or remain."

Ms Allan said she would be listening carefully to today's statement in the Commons. "I want to listen to what he has to say," she said. "However, the proposals at this stage do not suggest to me that Britain's best interests would be served by remaining in the EU. I believe we need more radical reform of Britain's relationship with the EU."

Mr Cameron said Britain could survive and succeed outside the EU and acknowledged that the EU will not be "a perfect and unblemished organisation" after the implementation of the reforms.

He said: "I think this is the best of both worlds – out of the single currency, out of the no-borders agreement, out of an ever-closer union, but in the things that work for Britain, that give us jobs, that give us security, that give us the ability to make sure we have a stronger and safer world. I think that's worth fighting for."

Advocates of UK withdrawal from the EU were scathing about the deal negotiated by David Cameron. Ukip leader Nigel Farage described it as "truly pathetic". He added: "There is no treaty change, no repatriation of powers, no ability to control our own laws, our money or our borders."

As expected, the document proposes measures to improve EU competitiveness, a 55 per cent threshold for national parliaments to force the EU to alter or scrap proposed laws, as well as assurances that the rights of non-eurozone states will be protected as the single currency area integrates. It states in law for the first time that the euro is not the EU's only currency and that the commitment to "ever-closer union" does not oblige all member states to "aim for a common destination".

It makes clear that non-euro states are not required to bail out single currency members, and proposes a new mechanism for non-euro states to escalate concerns about possible discrimination in favour of the eurozone for discussion by the European Council, as the PM has demanded.

Family Announcements

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DAILY DEADLINES

*Before 4.00pm Monday to Friday for the next day's edition
Before 4.30pm Friday for Monday.
*Subject to change Bank Holidays.

deaths

EVANS

Roy

(Rev)

Of Llandrinio and formerly of Solihull and Chaplin at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Passed away peacefully at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on January 24, 2016.

Beloved Husband of Jenny, devoted Father of Luke, Kate and Toby, loving Father-in-law of Chris and Sarah, adored Grandfather of Gracie and Lydia.

Two Services of Celebration and Thanksgiving for his life and Ministry will be held at St Philip and St James Parish Church, Morton, near Oswestry, SY10 8AJ on Thursday, February 11, at 2.30pm and at Holy Cross Church, Billesley, Birmingham, B13 0NS on Thursday, February 18, at 1.30pm.

Everyone is welcome at one or both Services and the Receptions afterwards.

No flowers by request. Donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation, Pulmonary Fibrosis Research, The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation, Border Group of Parishes and Holy Cross Church. All donations may be made via www.crowdfunding.justgiving.com/Rev-Roy-Evans or sent c/o the Funeral Directors.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

SEATON

Janette Florence

Sadly died at home on January 19, 2016, aged 75 years, after a long struggle. She will be greatly missed by her Husband and 'best mate' David, as well as her Family and Friends.

Funeral Service to be held on Monday, February 8, at St Chad's, Shrewsbury, at 12.15pm.

All inquiries please to

AUBREY KIRKHAM
Funeral Directors,
Frankwell Island,
Shrewsbury.
01743 368999

STONES

Andrew William

Died suddenly on January 23, 2016, aged 61 years.

Cherished Husband of Alison, Father of Lindsay and Alex, Grandfather of James and Georgia, Son of Lena and the late Frank and Brother of David.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury, on Monday, February 8, at 10.45am.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to Alice Ward at The Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

TOON

Robert Arthur Ward

(Bob)

Beloved Husband of the late Betty, a loving and much loved Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather. Formerly of The Beauchamp Hotel, The Mount, Shrewsbury. Passed away peacefully at home.

The Funeral Service will take place in St George's Church, Frankwell, Shrewsbury on Friday, February 5, at 12.30pm.

There will be a private Family Interment later at South Shropshire Remembrance Park.

Family flowers only please, however there will be a retiring collection, the proceeds of which will be divided between The Rotary Club of Shrewsbury - Rotary Foundation, Age UK Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and the Severn Hospice, Hospice at Home Service.

All inquiries please to

AUBREY KIRKHAM
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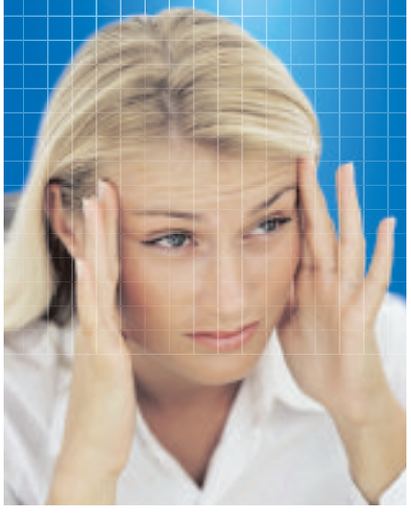

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TIPS OF THE WEEK

Why waste your time when one call could do it all!!

G.B. Installations (Midlands) Ltd. are fast becoming one of Telfords premier building and maintenance companies. Offering everything from home extensions and full refurbishments to a single kitchen or bathroom suite.

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No corners cut on quality

By Graham Breeze

Becoming an Audi owner normally means dipping into the second hand car market if you don't want to clean out the bank balance – unless you consider the A1 Sportback.

As an entry point to Audi ownership the 1.0litre TFSI Sport is a genuine option for those looking to find a premium car package at the right price.

It's no surprise to find that nearly 600,000 models have been sold since launch in 2010 thanks to a powerful stance, top spec equipment levels and a good solid drive.

The A1 is the first Audi to come with a three-cylinder engine, which was first used in the VW Polo, which means you can achieve over 65mpg.

There may still be a few ugly question marks hanging over the company when it comes to emission figures but Audi's claim of only producing 98g/km means you will be friendly to Mother Nature and that equals free road tax.

Let's be honest it doesn't sound like any other Audi I have driven thanks to the three-cylinder growl but it's a good performer both around town and on the motorway.

OK it doesn't have the recognised punch we have come to expect from Audi when pulling away from a standstill, but once you get the revs up there's no knowing there are only three cylinders and 0-62mph in 10.9 seconds is more than acceptable along with a top speed of 116mph.

Power is transmitted via the front wheels and the sport chassis also contributes to making the compact model from Audi sporty and agile. Electromechanical steering means the amount of power assist is reduced as vehicle speed increases.

Driving the TFSI Sport meant getting the Audi drive select dynamic handling system which lets the driver vary the engine characteristic, the S tronic and adjustable shock absorbers – another option – offers the modes auto, efficiency and dynamic.

At the limits of performance, torque vectoring – an intelligent software functionality – makes handling even more precise and stable.

There are also a host of other customisable features available – from coloured air vent trims to decorative decals for the body for those looking to personalise.

The impressive thing about Audi is that there are no corners cut on interior quality, material and workmanship. Being inside the A1 is no different to being at the wheel of an A6 or A8 – you just know it's an Audi.

The high-end solution in infotainment is MMI navigation plus with intelligent voice control and a monitor that folds out from the instrument panel. The module Audi connect including car phone connects the A1 to the Internet.

The A1 Sportback offers a lot for the cheapest Audi on the road with an entry price of £16,440

Sportback offers a bit more headroom at the rear, easier entry and an optional third seat row at the rear. The five-door model also boasts colour styling to span the entire roof dome.

The A1 Sportback offers a lot for the cheapest Audi on the road with an entry price of £16,440, though the test car came with metallic paint, leather upholstery, 17" alloys, a Sat Nav system, LED interior lights, hill start, a comfort pack door sill trims, parking assist, a BOSE surround sound system and other extras – taking the price up to £23,090.

There's a whole range of engines and specs to choose from and the model tested offers a genuine opportunity to become a new Audi owner at the right price while keeping running costs down at the same time.

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54 JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5 V6, Auto, BRG, 86,000 Miles, stunning car £2495 £2495

CAR OF THE WEEK
12 HONDA JAZZ HYBRID AUTO, very low mileage, lady owner £8995

14 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE Blue, 7000 miles SOLD
61 FORD GRAND C-MAX TITANIUM 2.0 TDCi Auto, Blue, 56k, AUTOMATIC £6995
11 SEAT EXEO 2.0TDI CRS (140), Black, 6 speed, full history SOLD
60 VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIVE 1.8 Silver, 24k, Lady Owner £5295 SOLD
09 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi. Black, High Mileage £4495 £3995
09 FIAT BRAVO 1.4 Dynamic, 5 door, Silver, Alloys £4295 £3995
58 PEUGEOT 207 SHDi 1.6 (90), Red, low mileage, full history £3695 SOLD
08 FORD FIESTA ZETEC Climate, 3 door, bronze metallic £3495 £3495
08 FORD FIESTA 1.4 Ghia, 5 door, blue £3495 SOLD
08 FORD KA, blue, 68,000 miles £2495 SOLD
57 MINI COOPER 1.6. White, 1 Lady Owner SOLD
57 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 life. Black , Alloys £2995
56 (07) MERCEDES A180 CDi CLASSIC SE Diesel, Silver, £3795 £3395

56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic £2895
56 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO HDi Diesel. Silver, FSH £2195
55 PEUGEOT 307 XSi 2.0 HDi Diesel. Bronze Met, Leather £3550
54 JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5 V6 Auto. BRG, 86,000 miles, stunning car £2995 £2495
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13 (13) KIA RIO 1.4 Ecodynamic 2. 5dr. Electric blue £11,850
13 (62) NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi ACENTA. Ruby Red, 18,000 miles £10,850
12 (62) FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi ZETEC Phantom Black £7,850
12 (62) PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi SR Silver £7,650
12 (62) PEUGEOT 5008 1.6 HDi ACTIVE Silver, £8,950
10 (10) VOLVO V50 1.6D DRIVE-S ESTATE, black £7,850
10 (10) RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi EXPRESSION Silver £6,850
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07 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 TDi SPORT. Shadow Blue £6,850
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07 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi CLUB 5-dr. Silver Lightning DUE IN
07 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi SRi+ ULTRA Blue £2,850
05 (55) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi DESIGN. Black £3,250
05 (05) KIA RIO 1.5 CRDi 1 x 32,000 miles, Silver DUE IN

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14 (14) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI 5-dr, Asteroid grey £7,950
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13 (13) KIA RIO 2 1.4 in Blaze Red £9,975
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12 (12) SUZUKI SPLASH 1.2 SZ4 £5,650
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05 (05) FORD KA COLLECTION Blue DUE IN
04 (04) AUDI A3 2.0 FSI SPORT Red £5,850

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10 (10) LANDROVER FREELANDER Z TD4 E XS Lovely condition DUE IN
12 (62) SUZUKI JIMNY 1.3 SZ4. Kashmir Blue £9,450
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2008 08 AUDI A4 SE 3.0 TDi QUATTRO. Grey Metallic, Black Leather, Sat Nav, 18" Alloys, Privacy Glass **£9,499**

2011 61 AUDI A3 1.6 Sportback Manual. Metallic Silver, 32,000 miles, FSH **£10,999**

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2011 61	**AUDI A3 1.6** Sportback, Manual, Metallic Silver, 32,000 miles, FSH	£10,999
2010 10	**AUDI A4 QUATTRO AVANT 4x4** 177bhp, Metallic Black, 40,000 miles, FSH	£13,999
2008 58	**AUDI TTS QUATTRO Manual,** Bright Red, 77,000 miles, FSH	£13,999
2008 08	**AUDI A4 SE 3.0 TDi QUATTRO.** Grey Metallic, Black Leather, Sat Nav, 18" Alloys, Privacy Glass	£9,499
2012 12	**BMW X1 SERIES 2.0d AUTOMATIC** Metallic Bronze, 51,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH	£12,999
2007 57	**BMW 318i SE** Saloon Manual, Metallic Bronze, 57,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2007 57	**BMW X3 2.0 SE** Diesel. Bronze Metallic, 68,500 miles, Climate Control, Parking Sensors	£9,499
2013 63	**CITROEN DS3 AIR DREAM D SPORT PLUS** Manual. Bright Red, Full Leather, 24,000 miles, FSH	£9,999
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2012 62	**CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6 VTR+ HDi** 5-door. Blue Metallic, 24,600 miles, FSH, £30 Road Tax	£6,999
2012 12	**CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE 1.6 HDi** Manual. Metallic Blue, 16,000 miles, 1 Owner	£8,999
2012 61	**CITROEN 1.0 VTR+** 3-door, Red, 20,000 miles, A/C, Zero Road Tax	£4,999
2011 11	**CITROEN C4 PICASSO 1.6 HDi VTR+ MPV.** Bronze Metallic, 57,000 miles, Parking Sensors, FSH	£7,999
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2012 62	**FIAT 500 COLOUR COLLECTION 1.0** 3-door, Manual, Light Brown, 1 Owner, 18,000 miles	£6,499
2013 13	**FORD FIESTA 1.6 ZETEC** Auto 5-door. Hot Mustard Metallic, Only 13,000 miles, FSH	£8,499
2014 14	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi** 5-door. Manual in White, 11,000 miles, 1 Owner, In White, FSH	£10,999
2012 61	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi ZETEC** 5-door Manual. 56,000 miles, FSH, Black	SOLD
2011 11	**FORD FOCUS ST** 3-door Manual. Bright Orange, 38,000 miles, FSH	£14,499
2010 60	**FORD MONDEO SPORT 1.8 TDCi Hatchback Manual.** Metallic Black, 72,000 miles	SOLD
2014 64	**HONDA JAZZ 1.2S** 5-door, Red, One Owner, 7,200 miles, FSH	£7,499
2007 07	**JAGUAR 2.2 X TYPE SE** Diesel 4-door. Gold Metallic with Cream Leather, Sat Nav, 6 Speed, FSH	£5,499
2009 59	**KIA RIO 1.6** Manual. Metallic Blue, 54,000 miles	£2,999
2012 62	**LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE DYNAMIC 4x4,** TV, DVD, Full Camera Pack with Lux Pack. Light Green Metallic, Fully Loaded, 20,000 miles	£30,999
2011 61	**LAND ROVER FREELANDER GS TD4 AUTOMATIC,** Full Leather, Bluettoth, New Shape, Metallic Black, 58,000 miles	SOLD
2010 60	**LAND ROVER FREELANDER GS TD4** Manual, New Shape, in White, 54,000 miles, 1 Lady Owner, FSH	SOLD
2010 10	**LAND ROVER FREELANDER XS TD4** Manual, Metallic Grey, Sunroof, Sat Nav, Half Leather, FSH, 51,000 miles	SOLD
2007 57	**LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 S** Manual. Metallic Black, FSH, 65,000 miles	SOLD
2011 61	**MINI CLUBMAN 2.0D S** Manual. red, Black Roof, Sat Nav, 1 Owner, 37,000 miles, FSH	£11,999
2012 62	**MINI COUNTRYMAN COOPER S 2.0 Diesel All** 4 5-door. Green, 1 Owner, FSH, 19,900 miles	SOLD
2011 11	**NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ACENTA** 5-door. Red Metallic, Climate Control, 36,000 miles	£7,999
2011 11	**NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC 2.0 DCi 4x4 Manual.** Metallic Gold, Sat Nav, Sunroof, 1 Owner, 23,000 miles	£13,999
2009 09	**NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi ACENTA** 5 Door, Blue Metallic, 6-speed, 37,500 miles, 2 Owners	SOLD
2012 62	**NISSAN NOTE 1.4 NTEC** 5-door, Blue Metallic, One Owner, FSH, Only 10,000 miles	£7,299
2006 06	**PEUGEOT 307 1.6 CABRIOLET** Blue Metallic, 61,500 miles, A/C, Alloy Wheels	£2,999
2009 09	**PEUGEOT 207 1.4** 3-door, Metallic Blue, 61,000 miles	£3,999
2012 12	**PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi ACCESS** 5-door Manual. Metallic Grey, £30 a year Road Tax, 50,000 miles	£6,499
2011 61	**PEUGEOT BIPPER HDi** Diesel Van. Silver Metallic, Side Loading Door, One Owner, 49,800 miles	£4,999+VAT
2011 61	**RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCi ESTATE Tom Tom,** Manual, Metallic Red, 40,000 miles, 1 Owner	£6,999
2010 10	**RENAULT GRANDE SCENIC 1.5 DCi** 7 Seater, Manual, Metallic Red, 28,000 miles, FSH	£6,999
2012 12	**SEAT ALTEA XLL 2.0 SE TDi** Estate, Grey Metallic, One Owner, 22,3000 miles, FSH	£9,999
2009 59	**SEAT IBIZA SPORT 1.6** Automatic 3-door. Blue Metallic, One Owner, Only 16,000 miles	£5,699
2012 12	**SKODA FABIA 1.2 SE** 5-door Manual. Metallic Black, 38,000 miles, FSH	£5,499
2012 12	**SKODA FABIA 1.6 ELEGANCE** Diesel Estate Manual. 28,000 miles, FSH	£7,499
2005 55	**SMART CITY PASSION Convertible Auto.** Silver Metallic, 53,500 miles, £30 Road Tax	£3,499
2009 09	**SUZUKI SX4 GLX 1.6** 5 Door, Blue Metallic, 36,700 miles, Climate Control, Alloy Wheels, 2 Owners, 36,700 miles	SOLD
2012 12	**VAUXHALL ANTARA CDTi 4x4 EXCLUSIVE** Manual. Champagne Metallic, 34,000 miles, FSH	£9,999
2012 62	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN.** Manual, Bright Red, 1 Owner, 7 Seats, 29,000 miles	£8,999
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2010 60	**VW POLO 1.2 SE** 3-door. Blue, 44,000 miles, FSH	£5,999
2012 12	**VW PASSAT 2.0 TDi Bluemotion Auto** 4-door. Silver Metallic, 16,900 miles, FSH, Cruise Control	£12,499
2006 06	**VW GOLF 1.4S** 5-door, Manual, Silver Metallic, 62,000 miles	SOLD
2008 08	**VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi SE Estate,** Red Metallic, 6 Speed Manual, 47,000 miles, Privacy Glass, Roof Rails, 47,000 miles	£10,499

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2013 63 CITROEN DS3 Dstyle Plus 1.6, 1 Owner, Bright Yellow Manual, 12,000 miles, FSH **£8999**

2012 62 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE DYNAMIC 4x4 with Lux Pack. Light Green Metallic, Fully Loaded, 20,000 miles **£30,999**

2008 08 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi SE Estate, Red Metallic, 6 Speed Manual, 47,000 miles, Privacy Glass, Roof Rails, 47,000 miles **£10,499**

2012 62 FIAT 500 COLOUR COLLECTION 1.0 3-door, Manual, Light Brown, 1 Owner, 18,000 miles **£6,499**

2011 61 LAND ROVER FREELANDER GS TD4 AUTOMATIC, Full Leather, Bluettoth, New Shape, Metallic Black, 58,000 miles **SOLD**

2012 12 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi SE Saloon, Manual, In White, 34,000 miles, FSH **£8,499**

2010 10 AUDI A4 QUATTRO AVANT 2.0 TDi 4x4 177bhp, Manual, Metallic Black, 40,000 miles, FSH **£13,999**

2011 11 NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC 2.0 DCi 4x4 Manual. Metallic Gold, Sat Nav, Sunroof, 1 Owner, 23,000 miles **£13,999**

TELFORD JOURNAL SHREWSBURY CHRONICLE

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Motoring

Car is good for tax bills!

BUYING most of BMW's range involved a healthy dose of heart as well as head – they are mostly cars aimed at people who love driving.

Well, here's one that might make you phone your accountant before signing on the dotted line. He might then tell you to choose a different model.

The big X5 is now available with an electric motor to assist the petrol engine and save a bit of fuel in the right circumstances. It will cost. But it might not, and you would then be better off buying the diesel, which costs only £215 more, goes faster and might actually save you money on longer journeys.

But here's where the accountant comes in; because the new X5 puts out such tiny amounts of tailpipe emissions in the official tests it qualifies for zero road tax and – more important for all the business people who fancy one – there's a £2,711 saving in benefit in kind each year.

Annoyingly, the emissions are a tiny bit too high (by a measly 2g/km) for the car to dodge the London congestion charge and the same minute tailpipe excess means the car does not qualify for a government plug-in car grant, which would lop £5,000 off the price now and £2,500 off from March, when the rules tighten.

This hybrid X5 costs £52,105 for the SE or £56,705 for the M Sport version on test.

Topping a dead battery to full takes less than four hours from a domestic plug, about an hour less if you have a BMW Wallbox installed.

Power

The car can then be ordered to mix petrol and current in the most economical way, save all its battery for later or combine the two power sources for maximum urge.

Of which there is plenty. And so back to the heart; where you find a car that looks precisely like the diesel equivalent with some modestly different badging and a flap in a front wing where you plug in the charging lead.

Even lumbered with the extra weight of a biggish battery (which robs the boot of a little room under the floor and means you can't have this X5 with a third row of seats) this is a car that flies when you prod both power sources into action – less than six seconds to 60 is brisk in anyone's book.

Driven like that, you'll exhaust the battery in minutes. With a little restraint you can drive up to 40mph-ish on flat roads on electrical power alone and get somewhere like the 19 miles a full charge can offer. BMW reckons 80 per cent of journeys with an X5 are less than 19 miles (station car park and back, anyone?) and used like that your travelling expenses will be negligible.

With commendable honesty, BMW then adds that a 40 mile daily round trip should return up to 47mpg, but stray into longer distance territory (125 miles and up) and economy tumbles to 27mpg.

That's more economical than the petrol X5 with similar performance, says its maker; perhaps missing the point that the 3.0 litre diesel would do better.

Which is why buyers go for it, of course. In petrol-focused China and the States the argument for the X5 hybrid makes more compelling sense.

It remains a decent drive in any case; a car built seemingly from a piece of solid steel, so tough does it feel.

It's big, but you soon learn not to fear multi-storey car park ramps and Waitrose parking bays; sitting tall helps here.

Standard spec is generous, with full leather trim, xenon headlights, metallic paint, fine sat nav, big alloys, cruise, powered tailgate and parking sensors front and rear.

As ever, there are options galore to tempt you to spend a bit more.

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57	FORD FOCUS ST-2, ORANGE, SERVICE HISTORY 49K	£6,695
11	FORD MONDEO EDGE TDCi EST. SILVER, FULL SERV. HIST., ONE PREV. OWNER 64K	£7,850
11	VW POLO SEL Tdi 90 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, AC, ONE OWNER, ALLOY WHEELS F.S.H 55K £30 ROAD TAX	£7,475
09	VW GOLF SE Tdi, SILVER, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 58K	£7,495
08	SUZUKI GRAND VITARA DSIS 4x4, GREY, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 41K	£7,250
12	SUZUKI SPLASH SZ4, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER £30 ROAD TAX 10K	£6,495
60	FIAT 500 LOUNGE, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 25K	£5,995
11	FORD FIESTA TITANIUM TDCi, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY 52K	£6,975
61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 CDTi SE ECO FLEX 130PS, RED, ONE OWNER, F.S.H, £30 ROAD TAX 37K	£5,795
12	NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 1.2, 5 DOOR, MET. RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 42K	£5,495
59	HONDA JAZZ I-VTEC ES, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 33K	£5,350
60	PEUGEOT 207 S 1.4, 5 DOOR, BLACK, AIR CON, ELEC. WINDOWS, SERVICE HIST 36K	£4,795
09	NISSAN NOTE 1.4 ACENTA, BEIGE , AIR CON., CRUISE CONTROL, ALLOY WHEELS, F.S.H 53K	£4,195
56	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDI SW EST., BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY 40K	£3,495
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09	PEUG.207 VERVE 1.4 5 DR., BLUE, CD, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERV. HIST. 49K	£3,995
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08	RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 1.2 16V, BLACK, ALLOYS, SERVICE HISTORY 50K	£3,495
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54	VAUXHALL ASTRA ENJOY CDTi, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 74K	£2,150
05	FORD KA, SILVER, 2 OWNERS, LOW MILEAGE 22K	£1,795

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05	SEAT IBIZA 1.4 3 DOOR, RED, ONE OWNER, POWER STEERING, SERVICE HISTORY 117K	£995

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10	TRANSIT T280, WHITE, ONE OWNER, AIR CON, SLIDING DOOR, SERVICE HISTORY 50K	£7,290
60	VOLKSWAGEN CADDY C20 TDI SWB, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 34K	£5,995
VW	CADDY MAXI C20 TDI, BLUE , ONE OWNER 65K	£5,795
10	VW CADDY C20 PLUS SDI, BLUE, ONE OWNER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 44K	£4,850
60	PEUGEOT PARTNER HDI SE, 3 SEATER, WHITE, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY 47K	£4,695
11	PEUGEOT BIPPER Hdi PROFESSIONAL, SIDE DOOR, WHITE, CENTRAL LOCKING, AIR CONDITIONING, SERVICE HISTORY, 57K	£4,195
60	PEUGEOT PARTNER HDI, WHITE, ONE OWNER, SIDE DOOR, SERVICE HISTORY 67K	£4,195
08	CITROEN BERLINGO 600X SWB 1.6 Hdi, BLUE, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY, 64K	£2,650

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2012 12	FIAT 500 LOUNGE IN WHITE 12000 MILES	£5,750
2004 04	FORD STREET KA IN RED, LEATHER, ALLOYS	£2,495
2005 55	MERCEDES E320 CDI IN SILVER, ACC, LEATHER, FSH	£5,995
2007 57	PEUGEOT 207 GT 3DR IN RED, PAN ROOF, 56,000 MILES	£3995
2007 57	NISSAN 2.5 CDI PATHFINDER AVENTURA IN SILVER, BLACK LEATHER, A/C, ALLOYS, REAR CAMERA, TOW BAR, SAT NAV, BLLUE TOOTH	£8,495
2005 05	TOYOTA CORROLLA 1.4 COLOUR COLLECTION, S/H	£2,250
2009 59	TOYOTA YARIS 1.4 D 4D TR 38,500 MILES, IN RED, SERVICE HISTORY	£6,250
2010 10	PEUGEOT 207 HDI SPORT 1.6 IN BLACK, ALLOYS, AIR/CON	£3,995
2009 59	CITREON C3 PICASSO 1.4 VTR+ IN MET BLUE 48000 MILES, ALLOYS, AIR/CON	£5,250
2003 03	TOYOTA MR2 1.8 IN MET BLUE, ALLOYS, 93,000 MILES	£2,250
2005 55	MITSUBISHI PINNIN WARRIOR 5DR IN SILVER 66000 MILE	£2,995
2011 61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 TDI VAN IN SILVER,70,000 MILES	£3,995
2011 11	SKODA FABIA 1.6 TDI CR 5DR IN MET GREY, AIR/CON,30,000 MILES	£6,750
2011 11	AUDI A6 2.0 SLINE 170 BHP GREY MET PAINT BLACK LEATHER 70000 MILES 19 INCH ALLOYS	£12,995
2007 57	MINI ONE 1.4 ALLOYS AIR CON,63000 MILES	£4,995
2011	BESSACARR E435 5 BERTH MOTOR HOME, IN WHITE 39000 MILES	£27,500
2007 07	AUDI A3 SE 1.6 AUTO, BLUE MET BLUE LEATHER ACC SERVICE HISTORY	£4,495
2008 08	FORD KA 1.3 IN BLACK 37000 MILES	£2,250
2010	LAND ROVER FREELANDER AUTO HSE 41000 MILES MET BLUE, LEATHER	£15,995
2008 54	LANDROVER TD5 110 COUNTRY IN MET GREEN, 47,000 MILES	£POA
2009 59	RANGE ROVER VOGUE TDVS AUTO IN BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY	£16,995
2003 53	LANDROVER 90 TD IN SILVER, BLACK ROOF, ALLOYS	£POA
2013 13	MINI COUNTRYMAN 20 D ALL WHEEL DRIVE, AUTO, IN BLACK, 9,000 MILES	£16,750
2010 60	BMW 120 D M SPORT AUTO, MET BLUE, 78,000 MILES	£8,995
2013 13	CITROEN DISPATCH ENTERPRIZE IN SILVER, 37,000 MILES	£7,500 +VAT

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Total Cash Price:	£3200	Monthly Payments:	£65
APR:	7.9%	Weekly Payments:	£15
Term of Loan: 60 Months		Total Payable:	£3900

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CARS OF THE WEEK

MG MG6 1.9 DTI-TECH GT SE

6 SPEED DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, SAT NAV, I POD CONNECTION, STILL UNDER MG WARRANTY TILL NOVEMBER 2017, IMMACULATE CONDITION
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HONDA INSIGHT 1.3 ES CVT

AUTOMATIC, 5 DOOR, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, IMMACULATE CONDITION
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FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC POWERSHIFT AUTO
6 SPEED AUTOMATIC, ESTATE, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ONLY 18,000 MILES, I POD CONNECTION, PARKING SENSORS, IMMACULATE CONDITION
Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S3953

TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 VVT-i BLUE
ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR, 5 DOOR, UPTO 65 MPG, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, INSURANCE GROUP 1, ONLY 55,000 MILES, IMMACULATE CONDITION
Buy this car, and drive away today from only £17 per week*.
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VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.7 CDTI EXCLUSIVE AUTO
DIESEL, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ONLY 13,000 MILES, IMMACULATE CONDITION
Buy this car, and drive away today from only £29 per week*.
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HYUNDAI i30 CLASSIC
5 DOOR, 6 SPEED, CD PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, STILL UNDER 5 YEAR WARRANTY, ONLY 28,000 MILES, IMMACULATE CONDITION
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PEUGEOT 207 CC 1.6 SPORT COU
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WEEKLY PAYMENTS	£16
MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£67
TOTAL	£4,000

DEAL OF THE WEEK

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DEAL OF THE WEEK

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.7 CDTi Nav 2012
Buy this car and drive away from only £28.00 per week

DEAL OF THE WEEK

TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 MODE 2013 A/C
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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 Cdti Limited Edition 2012
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SEAT IBIZA 1.2 TDi CRS 2012 A/C
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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi A/C 2012
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VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 TSi SE 2010
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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITION 2011
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Buy this car from only £25.00 per week

CITROEN DS3 1.6 LIMITED EDITION Diesel, 2012
Buy this car from only £40.00 per week

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PEUGEOT 208 1.4 HDi 2012
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NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi NTEC 2012
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VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTi ELITE ECOFLEX 2013
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CHEVROLET SPARK 1.2 LTZ 2013
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PORSCHE CAYENNE 3.0 DIESEL 2009
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VAUXHALL ASTRA 1/7 CDTi EXCLUSIVE 2011
Buy this car from only £27.00 per week

TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 VVTi 2011
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SEAT LEON 1.6 TDi ECOMOTIVE 2012
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How they stand

Sky Bet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Burton Albion	28	18	3	7	37	23	57
Walsall	28	16	8	4	47	27	56
Gillingham	29	16	6	7	55	36	54
Wigan Ath	29	14	10	5	48	29	52
Coventry City	29	13	9	7	48	32	48
Millwall	28	13	5	10	44	38	44
Southend Utd	28	12	8	8	38	35	44
Port Vale	30	12	7	11	34	35	43
Sheffield Utd	28	11	9	8	45	39	42
P'borough Utd	28	12	5	11	53	41	41
Bradford City	27	11	8	8	28	29	41
Barnsley	28	12	3	13	45	42	39
Scunthorpe Utd	28	11	5	12	33	37	38
Rochdale	27	10	7	10	37	37	37
Bury	27	10	7	10	36	40	37
Doncaster Rvrs	29	9	9	11	35	39	36
Swindon Twn	29	10	5	14	42	47	35
Blackpool	29	9	6	14	28	35	33
Chesterfield	28	9	3	16	38	48	30
S'bury Twn	29	8	5	16	34	49	29
Fleetwood Twn	27	7	7	13	34	37	28
Oldham Ath	27	4	12	11	27	40	24
Crewe Alex	28	5	8	15	28	50	23
Colchester Utd	28	5	7	16	36	65	22

Vanarama National N

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Solihull Moors	27	16	8	3	50	28	56
Nth Ferriby Utd	27	15	7	5	57	31	52
Boston Utd	29	16	3	10	52	41	51
AFC Fylde	26	15	4	7	49	32	49
Harrogate Twn	26	15	4	7	50	34	49
Nuneaton Twn	28	13	8	7	47	32	47
Tamworth	26	9	12	5	36	28	39
Curzon Ashton	27	10	8	9	38	34	38
Alfreton Twn	28	10	7	11	37	34	37
Chorley	26	10	6	10	43	42	36
Gloucester City	27	10	6	11	25	29	36
Stockport Cnty	28	8	10	10	30	35	34
G'boro Trinity	27	10	4	13	29	38	34
S'bridge Celtic	26	9	6	11	40	48	33
FC Utd of Man	26	9	5	12	41	47	32
Worcester City	25	9	4	12	31	35	31
Bradford PA	23	7	8	8	29	29	29
Hednesford Twn	26	6	8	12	36	50	26
Lowestoft Twn	26	7	5	14	32	50	26
Brackley Twn	27	6	7	14	31	41	25
Corby Twn	27	6	7	14	34	59	25
Telford Utd	28	6	5	17	23	43	23

Evo-Stik League
Division One South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Stafford Rgrs	29	21	5	3	57	20	68
Coalville Twn	26	16	6	4	46	21	54
Basford Utd	28	13	7	8	41	31	46
Shaw Lane A	22	13	6	3	52	21	45
Chasetwn	27	11	7	9	47	36	40
Lincoln Utd	25	11	7	7	36	31	40
Spalding Utd	27	11	7	9	39	35	40
Leek Twn	25	12	4	9	37	34	40
Romulus	30	11	5	14	47	54	38
Mkt D'ton Twn	26	11	4	11	37	37	37
Rugby Twn	26	10	7	9	43	44	37
Belper Twn	27	10	6	11	42	45	36
Kidsgrove Ath	25	9	8	8	55	42	35
S'bridge PS	23	10	5	8	39	32	35
Newcastle Twn	26	10	4	12	42	47	34
Gresley	25	11	1	13	33	39	34
Daventry Twn	28	10	3	15	37	59	33
Sheffield	27	8	7	12	41	51	31
Carlton Twn	27	8	2	17	40	52	26
Goole AFC	24	7	3	14	36	53	24
L'boro Dynamo	29	7	3	19	41	74	24
Tividale	26	2	7	17	28	58	13

North West Counties
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Barnton	20	13	3	4	58	25	42
Hanley Twn	15	12	1	2	33	14	37
Stockport Twn	22	11	4	7	46	38	37
Cheadle Twn	22	10	6	6	53	39	36
Irlam	17	10	2	5	35	17	32
Ashton Twn	15	10	1	4	37	19	31
Holker OB	14	9	3	2	37	18	30
St Helens Twn	18	9	2	7	38	37	29
Bacup Borough	18	8	3	7	43	35	27
L'lnd REMYCA	19	7	6	6	31	28	27
Northwich MV	20	7	3	10	35	40	24
Rochdale Twn	20	5	4	11	30	52	19
Daisy Hill	18	5	3	10	27	49	18
Widnes	20	4	5	11	43	50	17
Chadderton	18	4	5	9	22	34	17
Atherton LR	17	4	3	10	19	42	15
Eccleshall	15	4	1	10	24	37	13
W'church A	22	1	9	12	25	62	12

West Midlands League
Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Shawbury Utd	26	17	5	4	95	40	56
Haughmond	29	16	7	6	83	47	55
AFC Bridgnorth	22	14	2	6	47	22	44
Cradley Twn	25	13	4	8	59	38	43
W'Ton Casuals	25	12	5	8	58	50	41
Dudley Sports	22	12	4	6	50	40	40
W'Ton Spt Com	23	12	3	8	62	47	39
Pegasus Juniors	24	12	3	9	48	45	39
Stone OA	25	11	3	11	42	51	36
Malvern Twn	24	11	2	11	55	47	35
Ellesmere Rgrs	23	10	5	8	42	36	35
Dudley Twn	24	9	7	8	39	43	34
Smethwick Rgrs	26	10	4	12	57	69	34
Wellington	22	9	5	8	45	35	32
Willenhall Twn	28	9	5	14	47	66	32
BC Rgrs	23	8	7	8	39	30	31
Bewdley Twn	24	9	3	12	39	49	30
Gornal Ath	23	9	2	12	40	40	29
Bilston Twn Co	24	7	5	12	34	44	26
Bromyard Twn	21	6	2	13	40	68	20
Wellington Ams	22	3	5	14	24	59	14
Tipton Twn	25	0	4	21	13	92	4

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
AFC Ludlow	23	17	3	3	74	24	54
Shifnal Twn	20	13	3	4	50	27	42
St Martins	22	13	2	7	59	44	41
Hereford LC	17	12	3	2	43	16	39
Darlaston Twn	19	9	5	5	45	32	32
Wem Twn	19	10	1	8	46	39	31
Kington Twn	18	9	4	5	41	36	31
F C Stafford	20	8	6	6	35	35	30
Wednesfield	17	6	6	5	29	25	24
Wrens Nest	17	6	4	7	29	43	22
Shenstone P	19	7	0	12	29	39	21
Trysull	18	6	2	10	23	28	20
Bartestree	22	5	3	14	31	51	18
Bustleholme	19	5	3	11	37	58	18
Penncroft	18	4	5	9	32	48	17
Team Dudley	17	4	3	10	32	48	15
Wyrley	19	3	5	11	28	47	14
Worcs Raiders	16	4	0	12	34	57	12

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Newport Twn	17	15	2	0	64	22	47
Old Wulf	16	12	1	3	48	17	37
W'Ton Utd	18	10	2	6	45	44	32
Telford Juniors	18	6	7	5	36	28	25
Powick Rgrs	15	6	5	4	37	27	23
Warstone Wdrs	13	6	3	4	46	34	21
Bilbrook F C	14	6	3	5	26	27	21
Malvern U21	16	5	4	7	31	34	19
Wonder Vaults	10	5	3	2	25	13	18
Red Star Alma	13	4	4	5	32	29	16
Tipton Yth AFC	17	4	2	11	36	49	14
Tividale Res	14	4	2	8	31	44	14
Sikh Hunters	16	4	3	9	32	60	12
Gornal Colts	14	3	2	9	30	50	11
Wrens Nest Res	19	2	3	14	22	63	9

Greenhous Shrewsbury & District Sunday
Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Instones United	8	7	1	0	31	11	22
Cruckton Rov	9	5	2	2	27	16	17
Rock Rov Yth	6	5	1	0	26	10	16
The Gates	8	3	2	3	17	13	11
Loppington	8	3	0	5	21	26	9
Pontesbury	6	3	0	3	10	20	9
S.A.H.A.	7	2	1	4	16	22	7
Coton Rovers	9	1	4	4	17	25	7
Kinnerley	10	1	3	6	22	31	6
Compasses	7	1	2	4	15	28	5

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
P'cock C'thians	10	8	0	2	43	21	24
Athletico Market	10	7	1	2	33	22	22
Condover Foxes	9	6	1	2	32	17	19
Anchor Inn	12	5	2	5	35	37	17
Bagley Sports	9	5	1	3	21	17	16
Beacon	9	4	0	5	21	20	12
Norbury	6	2	1	3	13	14	7
Coracle Afc	8	2	1	5	16	40	7
Minsterley	10	1	2	7	21	39	5
Rock Rovers	9	1	1	7	22	30	4

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Unison	9	7	1	1	28	14	22
Radbrook	8	6	1	1	28	12	19
Telegraph	7	5	1	1	33	12	16
Red Barne	7	5	1	1	25	11	16
Crown Coleham	9	5	0	4	25	34	15
Steam Wagon	9	4	0	5	21	28	12
Belvidere	10	3	0	7	25	28	9
Brockton Rovers	8	1	1	6	20	33	4
S.A.H.A. Youth	7	1	1	5	13	31	4
Boars Head	8	1	0	7	15	30	3

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
White Lion	7	5	2	0	28	7	17
Reman Youth	9	5	1	3	23	18	16
Snailbeach	7	4	1	2	21	12	13
Onslow	8	4	0	4	32	30	12
Castlefields	8	3	1	4	13	17	10
Duddlestone Hth	9	3	1	5	24	34	10
Bull In The Barne	8	3	1	4	17	28	10
Nags Head	7	2	2	3	21	27	8
Beeches	9	2	1	6	18	24	7

Division 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bomere Heath	10	10	0	0	72	13	30
Dun Cow	13	9	1	3	53	27	28
Saddlers	9	6	2	1	36	24	20
Old PO Wem	11	5	3	3	38	24	18
Harlescott S.C.	9	5	2	2	26	23	17
Crn Abbey F'gate	10	4	2	4	27	26	14
Dolphin Afc	10	3	4	3	29	33	13
Anchor Frankwell	10	2	3	5	25	38	9
Monkmoor United	10	1	1	8	19	62	4
Unicorn	10	1	0	9	23	49	3
Wheatsheaf	10	1	0	9	15	44	3

Sportsjam Regional League
Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Allscott	20	14	2	4	84	22	44
FC Oswestry	18	14	2	2	66	23	44
Childs Ercall	14	8	1	5	36	28	25
AFC Broseley	14	6	4	4	35	25	22
Rock Rovers	12	7	1	4	29	28	22
Wroxeter Rvrs	13	6	2	5	38	36	20
Oakengates Ath	16	6	2	8	39	39	20
Church Stretton	16	6	2	8	33	34	20
FC Hodnet	15	5	4	6	25	25	19
B'north Res	14	5	4	5	27	34	19
Madeley Spts	15	5	1	9	21	39	16
W'wardine Wd	16	4	3	9	22	50	15
Prees	16	4	2	10	23	54	14
Shifnal Utd 97	15	2	0	13	21	62	6

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Stoke Hth 1st	11	9	0	2	37	16	27
Clee Hill Utd	10	7	0	3	43	16	21
AFC Wellington	7	6	0	1	21	13	18
Bishops Castle	11	5	1	5	39	30	16
Gobowen Celtic	10	5	1	4	24	27	16
Highley MW	5	2	0	3	14	12	6
O'gates Rgrs	10	1	0	9	14	37	3
Brown Clee	10	1	0	9	14	55	3

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Claverley	13	11	1	1	44	13	34
Madeley Sp Res	13	11	0	2	63	18	33
W'church A Res	11	8	1	2	54	24	25
Craven Arms	15	6	2	7	35	40	20
Coven Utd	13	6	1	6	34	26	19
Riverside	11	6	1	4	26	21	19
St Martins Res	11	5	1	5	36	25	16
Broseley Res	11	4	2	5	22	29	14
Albrighton Jnrs	14	4	0	10	45	38	12
Randlay Casuals	8	3	1	4	29	26	10
Oswestry Res	12	3	0	9	33	55	9
Denso	14	1	0	13	10	116	3

Telford Sunday Football
Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Randlay United	5	5	0	0	32	3	15
Shifnal Royals	8	5	0	3	32	23	15
Plough Inn Wton	5	4	0	1	24	7	12
Shifnal E'peans	6	4	0	2	24	16	12
Cressage	5	3	1	1	16	13	10
Red Lion FC	7	3	0	4	18	35	8
Shifnal Nth End	9	1	2	6	16	36	5
Barley	9	0	1	8	15	44	1

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
W'wardine Wd	11	8	2	1	36	18	26
C'port O'gates	13	7	3	3	45	28	24
Celtic Spartans	13	7	2	4	44	33	23
Bulls Hd DB Vets	12	5	2	5	36	31	17
Dawley Social	11	5	1	5	19	26	16
Riverside	9	4	1	4	11	15	13
Malt Shovel	10	2	2	6	16	27	8
Honeysuckle	8	3	0	5	21	33	8
Lord Hill Mkt D	13	2	1	10	29	46	7

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Travellers Joy	11	10	1	0	49	15	31
Dawley Wdrs V	11	10	0	1	51	13	30
Cosford United	12	5	5	2	32	19	20
Ironbrige	10	6	1	3	36	19	19
Bridgnorth Ath	7	6	0	1	41	14	17
White Horse Ath	12	4	4	4	33	32	16
Hare & Hounds	12	5	0	7	19	37	15
W'ardine Wd Jns	9	3	2	4	14	23	11
Lawley	12	2	1	9	21	43	7
Rose & Crown S	13	2	1	10	23	47	7
Telford Rangers	15	1	1	13	16	73	4

English Rugby Clubs
National League 2 North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Macclesfield	18	15	0	3	603	318	76
Sedgley Park	17	12	0	5	489	336	61
Stourbridge	20	12	1	7	429	317	59
Caldy	19	11	2	6	439	346	59
Leicester Lions	19	12	1	6	368	301	57
Otley	19	10	0	9	377	387	50
Sandal	19	10	0	9	311	352	46
Harrogate	18	9	0	9	359	354	44
Preston Grass	18	8	3	7	343	336	44
Chester	19	8	0	11	374	376	41
Sale	19	7	1	11	388	492	39
Tynedale	18	7	0	11	368	449	38
South Leicester	18	6	1	11	398	490	35
Luctonians	17	6	1	10	309	433	31
Broadstreet	19	5	0	14	347	475	27
Huddersfield	19	5	0	14	314	454	25

Shropshire's Olivia Poole is heading for the prestigious Royal International Horse Show.

Poole booked her ticket for the July event after winning a highly competitive SEIB Winter Novice Qualifier at Arena UK.

A bumper field of 81 combinations took part in the event in Grantham, Lincolnshire and it was Shrewsbury star Poole who emerged victorious at the end of a bumper 28-horse jump off.

All of the competitors were focused on picking up one of the two qualifying tickets up for grabs for the Championship and the jump off proved to be well fought with six double clears achieved overall.

Poole, who was on board Quality, a six-year-old bay owned by Michelle Poole, delivered one of the double clears and she did so in 35.16 seconds.

That time gave teenager Poole, an age group international for England, and Quality more than a second in hand over their nearest rivals.

■ Pictured: Olivia Poole and Quality at Arena UK: Picture: Equipics.

National League 3 Midlands

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hinckley	18	16	0	2	520	212	76
Scunthorpe	17	14	0	3	500	261	67
Old Hales	17	12	0	5	428	254	61
Nuneaton	18	11	0	7	399	315	51
P'borough Lns	17	11	0	6	379	261	48
Bromsgrove	18	10	0	8	394	451	48
Syston	18	9	0	9	344	387	45
Lichfield	18	8	0	10	393	405	45
B'ham/Solihull	18	7	0	11	319	388	37
Sandbach	18	6	0	12	302	394	31
N'port, Salop	17	6	0	11	324	465	29
Longton	17	5	0	12	295	396	28
Old N'tonians	18	5	0	13	292	443	27
Sutton C'field	17	3	0	14	276	533	16

Midlands 1 West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bridgnorth	16	12	2	2	370	180	61
S'ford U Avon	18	12	0	6	498	346	61
Bournville	17	11	0	6	496	403	57
Worcs Wdrs	18	10	2	6	423	347	55
Whitchurch	18	11	0	7	302	309	52
Burton	17	10	0	7	455	339	51
Dudley Kings	18	8	2	8	515	365	49
Kenilworth	17	9	0	8	373	326	48
Hereford	15	9	1	5	286	278	43
Crewe/N'wich	17	7	1	9	317	362	41
Stoke on Trent	16	7	1	8	323	306	38
Leek	17	4	1	12	309	471	23
Silhillians	18	2	0	16	287	551	15
Walsall	16	2	0	14	221	592	12

Midlands 2 West North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Moseley Oak	14	14	0	0	626	151	68
Old Saltleians	14	12	0	2	393	195	59
W'ton	15	11	0	4	515	182	57
Camp Hill	15	11	0	4	458	247	56
Kidderminster	14	8	0	6	377	288	42
Stafford	14	7	0	7	239	345	32
S'bridge Lions	14	6	0	8	375	304	31
Veseyans	14	6	0	8	182	344	27
Old Yardleians	14	5	0	9	299	308	27
Shrewsbury	14	4	0	10	242	394	20
Handsworth	15	2	0	13	210	649	12
Harborne	15	0	0	15	150	659	3

Midlands 3 West North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Tamworth	15	14	0	1	517	97	68
Ludlow	14	11	0	3	546	284	53
Cleobury M	14	11	0	3	403	131	50
N'castle, Staffs	13	10	0	3	434	177	49
Clee Hill	13	9	0	4	270	159	43
Cannock	15	7	0	8	272	348	35
Burntwood	15	6	0	9	288	353	30
Willenhall	15	6	0	9	239	381	28
Edwardians	15	4	1	10	252	352	24
Eccleshall	14	3	2	9	157	317	14
Wednesbury	14	3	0	11	118	400	14
Bloxwich	15	0	1	14	157	654	9

Midlands 4 West North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Uttoxeter	13	11	0	2	457	207	55
Barton-U-N'wd	12	9	0	3	325	183	44
Bromyard	13	8	0	5	377	216	44
Telford Hornets	12	9	0	3	263	116	42
Rugeley	12	7	0	5	334	152	38
Yardle/Dist	14	6	0	8	265	261	28
Aston OE	13	5	1	7	168	307	24
Bishops Castle	11	5	0	6	127	159	23
Aldridge	13	4	1	8	149	334	19
Church Stretton	11	3	0	8	183	347	17
Market Drayton	12	0	0	12	126	492	1

Midlands 5 West North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essington	13	12	0	1	362	153	56
St Leonards	12	9	0	3	339	162	45
Tenbury	13	6	1	6	186	167	32
Greyhound	13	5	1	7	308	280	31
Stourport	12	5	1	6	186	167	24
Chaddesley C	12	4	0	8	214	244	20
Warley	13	1	1	11	94	516	6

Northern Division Cheshire (South)

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Manchester M	15	12	0	3	590	142
Oswestry	14	13	0	1	406	96
Dukinfield	16	11	0	5	525	299
V'bonds IOM	15	10	1	4	495	245
Eagle	13	9	1	3	354	307
Marple	14	8	1	5	381	228
Heaton Moor	15	7	1	7	353	214
Trentham	14	6	1	7	348	337
Moore	14	4	1	9	284	504
Ramsey IOM	14	4	0	10	235	300
Congleton	15	4	0	11	183	430
Linley	16	3	0	13	199	649
Knutsford	13	0	0	13	65	667

Midland Men's Hockey
1st Team League
Midlands 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Worcester	15	13	0	2	67	31	39
Barton	15	10	3	2	65	45	33
L'borough Town	15	10	3	2	42	25	33
Bridgnorth	15	7	3	5	39	35	24
Old Halesonians	15	8	0	7	35	32	24
Burton	15	5	3	7	40	48	18
Edgbaston	15	4	4	7	35	42	16
Sutton Coldfield	15	4	4	7	47	61	16
Hampton-in-Ard	15	3	5	7	41	54	14
Cov & N W'wick	15	3	4	8	35	48	13
Sikh U (Notts)	15	3	3	9	51	62	12
Telford & Wrekin	15	3	2	10	43	57	11

Midlands 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwick	13	12	1	0	58	21	37
Warwick Uni	14	11	0	3	66	26	33
Finchfield	14	10	2	2	55	37	32
Stratford	13	5	4	4	44	32	19
Chesterfield	13	6	1	6	43	41	19
Coalville	13	5	2	6	42	35	17
Shrewsbury	13	5	2	6	41	41	17
Old Silhillians	14	4	4	6	50	53	16
Leicester	14	4	0	10	32	53	12
Melton	14	2	2	10	28	51	8
South Notts	13	1	0	12	22	91	3

West Midlands Premier

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sikh U (Cov'try)	15	12	0	3	67	39	36
Bloxwich	15	10	2	3	43	29	32
Streetly	15	10	1	4	53	31	31
Market Drayton	14	9	3	2	49	29	30
Wednesbury	15	8	0	7	46	33	24
Bromsgrove	15	7	2	6	52	49	23
Aldridge & Wal	15	7	1	7	35	33	22
Ludlow	15	7	1	7	39	45	22
Solihull B'field	15	5	1	9	32	45	16
Kings H P'wick	15	4	1	10	29	53	13
Old Wulfrunians	14	1	3	10	15	41	6
Wolverhampton	15	1	1	13	22	55	4

West Midlands 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Stafford	14	12	1	1	89	22	37
Redditch	14	11	1	2	46	20	34
West Bromwich	14	11	0	3	54	20	33
Leamington	13	9	1	3	51	31	28
Oswestry	14	7	1	6	52	39	19*
Pershore	14	5	3	6	41	44	18
Evesham	13	5	1	7	30	45	13*
Newtown	14	3	3	8	22	57	9*
Droitwich Spa	13	2	0	11	25	53	6
Yardley	14	1	3	10	19	54	6
Barlaston	13	1	2	10	16	60	-1*

Midlands Women's Hockey League
Midlands Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
L'mington 1st XI	11	10	0	1	42	6	30
Shrewsbury I	11	8	1	2	35	17	25
Uni of Brum III	11	6	4	1	27	16	22
E'baston 1st XI	11	5	1	5	14	19	16
North Notts I	11	4	3	4	27	24	15
Olt & W War II	11	4	1	6	22	30	13
Cannock II	11	3	3	5	12	21	12
L'borough Stu II	11	3	1	7	13	26	10
Towcester I	11	1	4	6	14	26	7
Nrth Staffs HC I	11	1	2	8	15	36	5

Feeder West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Stone 1st XI	11	8	2	1	47	17	26
Harborne 2nd XI	11	8	2	1	43	14	26
Lichfield 2nd XI	11	7	2	2	33	19	23
Uttoxeter 1st XI	11	6	2	3	38	28	20
T'ford & Wrek I	11	6	2	3	35	28	20
Stratford I	11	5	3	3	27	16	18
Bridgnorth I XI	11	3	0	8	18	40	9
Cannock III	11	2	1	8	12	34	7
Shrewsbury II	11	1	3	7	13	30	6
Worcester II	11	0	1	10	8	48	1

Shropshire Ladies Hockey League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bridgnorth II	15	12	2	1	72	13	38
Wem/MD I	14	10	3	1	90	12	33
Montgomery	14	9	1	4	38	12	28
T'ford & Wrek II	14	6	1	7	35	33	19
Ludlow & Wen I	14	5	2	7	25	57	17
Wem/MD II	15	3	2	10	20	37	11
Shrewsbury III	14	4	2	8	23	42	14
Ludlow & Wen II	14	1	1	12	4	101	4

Darwin Glass & Glazing Shrewsbury & District Darts League
Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Masonic A	18	13	3	2	95	49	29
Rock C	18	11	6	1	94	50	28
Beacon B	18	11	5	2	88	56	27
Crown A/F A	18	10	5	3	85	59	25
Belvidere A	18	10	3	5	87	57	23
Heathgates A	18	10	3	5	79	65	23
Beacon A	18	7	5	6	74	70	19
Telegraph B	18	6	6	6	72	72	18
BITB A	18	5	4	9	57	87	14
Comp Dith FC	18	3	6	9	65	79	12
W'sheaf F/W A	18	2	7	9	62	82	11
Coach	18	2	6	10	59	85	10
Beeches	18	2	3	13	49	95	7
AIHG	18	1	4	13	40	102	6

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Charles Darwin	18	10	7	1	86	58	27
Eagles (cress)	18	11	4	3	85	59	26
Admiral Duncan	17	10	3	4	78	58	23
Royal O B (rock)	18	9	4	5	81	63	22
Comp Dith B	18	9	3	6	74	70	21
7 Stars	18	7	6	5	76	68	20
Onlsow	18	7	4	7	75	71	18
Masonic B	17	7	3	7	64	72	17
Comp Dith A	18	3	8	7	68	75	14
POW	18	5	4	9	67	76	14
Crown A/F B	16	5	3	8	60	68	13
Grove	18	4	4	10	61	83	12
Bull C/Foregate	17	4	2	11	57	79	10
R Lion B/Heath	17	2	5	10	51	85	9

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Red Barn	15	10	2	3	75	45	22
Inn on Green	15	9	3	3	68	52	21
Telegraph C	15	8	4	3	66	54	20
Belvidere B	15	7	3	5	67	53	17
Coracle A	15	7	3	5	66	54	17
Woodman A	15	6	4	5	60	60	16
Woodman B	16	4	7	5	65	63	15
Comp Dith C	15	4	5	6	57	63	13
Rock A	15	5	1	9	53	67	11
Steam Wagon	15	3	4	8	51	69	10
Comp B/Hill	15	4	2	9	48	72	10
Bagley Club	15	2	5	8	48	76	9

Division 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Monkmoor	18	15	3	0	96	48	33
BVT A	18	11	5	2	84	60	27
X Foxes	18	11	3	4	87	57	25
Brooklands	18	10	3	5	75	69	23
HSC C	18	8	4	6	76	68	20
Salopian Bar	18	7	5	6	70	74	19
Dog in Lane A	18	6	5	7	71	73	17
Coracle B	18	6	4	8	71	73	16
Hare & Hounds	18	4	8	6	71	73	16
Boars Head	18	5	5	8	68	76	15
Harry Hotspur	18	4	6	8	65	79	14
Bell X Houses	18	3	4	11	61	83	10
Brick A/F	18	4	2	12	58	86	10
Cressage Club	18	2	3	13	52	89	7

Division 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
N Inn (Hadnall)	18	13	4	1	97	47	30
Reabrook SC	18	11	6	1	90	54	28
Hop & Friar	18	10	4	4	83	61	24
Crwn & Scepter	18	10	3	5	83	61	23
Plough Ponts	18	10	3	5	80	64	23
BITB B	18	6	6	6	73	71	18
HSC A	18	8	2	8	66	78	18
Telegraph A	18	7	3	8	71	73	17
AMF Bowling	18	6	5	7	69	73	17
HSC B	18	3	7	8	62	82	13
Dog in Lane B	18	1	10	7	60	84	12
Condover Club	18	1	8	9	62	82	10
Telepost	18	3	4	11	55	89	10
Bird in Hand	18	3	3	12	57	87	9

Division 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Corbett Arms	17	14	0	3	98	38	28
Comp Ladies	16	13	1	2	89	39	27
Heathgates 40S	16	11	3	2	87	41	25
BVT B	17	10	4	3	75	61	24
Dolphin	16	9	4	3	79	49	22
Masonic C	16	8	1	7	64	64	17
Crown C/Ham A	17	7	1	9	61	75	15
Crown C/Ham B	16	6	2	8	63	65	14
W'sheaf F/W B	17	6	2	9	56	80	14
Saddlers	16	5	2	9	62	66	12
Wingfield Arms	17	3	2	12	56	80	8
Brick Cop	16	2	2	12	39	86	6
Britannia	15	0	0	15	16	104	0

JC Dyke Oswestry Table Tennis League
Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Morda Tigers	10	10	0	0	73	27	60
Morda Exiles	10	7	0	3	63	37	51
Caereinion A	9	2	3	4	46	44	43
Morda A	8	4	0	4	42	38	36
Criftins A	10	1	3	6	32	68	32
Llansilin Drovers	9	0	2	7	24	66	24

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ex Servicemens	7	6	1	0	54	16	41
Llansilin	8	4	2	2	51	29	38
Criftins B	5	4	0	1	38	12	28
Morda Eagles	6	2	1	3	27	33	27
Kinnerley	7	2	1	4	27	43	23
Caereinion B	5	2	0	3	21	29	19
Chirk AAA	8	0	1	7	12	68	12

Telford Snooker League
Heath Hill Building & Roofing Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A
Shifnal B	16	14	2	63	17
Dawley A	16	12	4	55	25
Maddocks A	16	13	3	54	26
Hadley A	16	11	5	49	31
Broseley A	16	9	7	45	35
Eden A	16	9	7	43	37
Shifnal E	16	8	8	43	37
Bayley E	16	9	7	39	41
Hadley B	16	7	9	38	42
Bayley B	16	7	9	35	45
Maddocks C	16	4	12	30	50
Maddocks E	16	5	11	27	53
Newport B	16	2	14	23	57
Maddocks D	16	2	14	16	64

Roden Scaffold Division 2

	P	W	L	F	A
Eden G	15	14	1	57	18
Shifnal F	15	9	6	48	27
Bayley D	15	11	4	46	29
Eden Elite	14	11	3	46	24
Dawley B	14	11	3	44	26
Anstice B (Dawley)	15	9	6	44	31
Bayley Cue	15	8	7	41	34
2nd club A	14	7	7	32	38
Shifnal D	14	5	9	29	41
Maddocks F	15	4	11	29	46
Allscott	15	4	11	26	49
Bayley Z	14	2	12	20	50
Bayley Lads	15	0	15	13	62

Elcock Reisen Broseley Dominoes League

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Albion A	12	8	4	46	38	70
Old Boys	12	8	4	44	40	68
3 Lions	12	7	5	46	38	67
Albion B	12	6	6	44	40	62
Down/Outs	12	5	7	41	43	56
Lion B	12	6	6	37	47	55
Pressies	12	4	8	40	44	52
Lion A	12	4	8	38	46	50

Shrewsbury Dominoes

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Telepost	19	12	3	4	95	57	28
Rock & Fountain	18	11	3	4	80	64	26
Telegraph	19	10	5	4	83	69	24
Dog & Pheasant	19	9	6	4	81	71	22
HSC	19	8	6	5	74	78	21
Bird in Hand	19	7	5	7	78	74	21
Compasses	19	7	7	5	78	74	19
Cross Foxes	19	7	8	4	74	78	18
FCC	19	7	8	4	74	78	18
POW	19	7	9	3	78	74	17
BVT	19	6	8	5	73	79	17
Masonic	19	5	7	7	78	74	17
Postal	19	5	7	7	73	79	17
Heathgates	18	6	9	3	64	80	15
Albion	19	4	11	4	64	86	12
Anchor	19	5	14	0	61	91	10

Ron's Gents Hairdressing Shrewsbury & District Domino League
Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Boars Head	21	10	7	4	97	71	27
Woodman B	21	12	2	7	97	71	26
Crown A	21	9	7	5	90	78	25
Frankwell CC	21	10	5	6	89	79	25
Belvidere A	20	10	5	5	87	73	25
Horseshoes	21	9	5	7	85	83	23
Brooklands A	21	9	5	7	83	85	23
Reman	21	8	6	7	87	81	22
Rock A	20	9	4	7	84	76	22
Unison	21	7	7	7	84	84	21
Cross Foxes B	21	7	7	7	80	88	21
Telepost	21	7	6	8	83	85	20
Compasses A	21	8	4	9	77	91	20
Telegraph CB	21	8	3	10	80	88	19
Monkmoor	21	6	5	10	82	86	17
Belle Vue Tavern	21	5	7	9	77	91	17
Compasses B	21	3	6	12	71	97	12
Pnce of Wales A	21	5	1	15	71	97	11

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rock B	19	11	4	4	86	66	26
Rock C	15	9	2	4	67	53	20
Royal Oak	15	7	4	4	69	51	18
Corbet Uff A	17	7	3	7	72	64	17
Telegraph B	16	6	5	5	65	63	17
Telegraph A	16	7	3	6	62	66	17
Harry Hotspur	17	5	5	7	65	71	15
Red Lion	15	4	7	4	60	60	15
Plough	14	5	5	4	59	53	15
Harlescott SC	16	7	1	8	58	70	15
Cross Foxes A	16	5	4	7	56	72	14
Corbett B	15	5	4	6	55	65	14
Woodman A	17	4	5	8	69	67	13
Beeches	12	4	4	4	48	48	12
Bird	14	2	2	10	45	67	6

Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Masonic B	17	9	5	3	75	61	23
Ad Duncan	17	8	5	4	77	59	21
Horseshoes A	17	7	6	4	72	64	20
Masonic A	17	8	3	6	74	62	19
Bagley	17	8	3	6	70	66	19
Beeches B	17	7	5	5	69	67	19
Heathgates B	17	5	8	4	69	67	18
Cressage	16	7	4	5	65	63	18
Belvidere	16	6	5	5	64	64	17
Bull in Barn A	17	5	6	6	70	66	16
Rock D	17	6	3	8	64	72	15
Red Lion	17	4	5	8	64	72	13
Heathgates A	17	6	1	10	61	75	13
Bull in Barn B	16	3	7	6	58	70	13
Red Castle	17	2	4	11	56	80	8

Division Four

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Anchor HG	15	9	3	3	73	47	21
Coach	16	8	4	4	71	57	20
Crown B	15	7	5	3	69	51	19
Compasses BH	14	8	2	4	62	50	18
Seven Stars	14	9	1	4	63	49	19
Inn on Green	14	8	2	4	61	51	18
Wheatsheaf	15	7	4	4	68	52	18
Prince B	14	5	4	5	55	57	14
Dolphin	14	5	3	6	56	56	13
Brick Copthorne	16	4	5	7	60	68	13
Brooklands	14	4	2	8	53	59	10
Dog & Pheasant	14	3	3	8	46	66	9
Brittania	14	1	5	8	38	74	7
Bulls Head	15	0	5	10	41	79	5

Wrekin Shortmat Bowls
Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ketley Bank B	10	6	0	4	142	71	12
Madeley Crt B	11	6	0	5	144	98	12
N'port C Grn B	10	6	0	4	105	74	12
N'port C Grn C	10	6	0	4	108	90	12
Telford B	12	6	0	6	91	148	12
N'port C Grn A	10	5	0	5	97	97	10
Broseley Vic A	9	3	0	6	72	125	6
St Georges A	10	3	0	7	88	144	6

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
St Georges C	11	8	0	3	143	99	16
Broseley Vic B	10	7	0	3	126	86	14
Ketley Bank D	10	6	0	4	119	97	12
Shrewsbury D	11	6	0	5	121	110	12
N'port C Grn D	10	4	0	6	94	123	8
Ketley Bank C	10	4	0	6	80	118	8
Dawley D	10	3	0	7	93	115	6
Ketley Bank E	10	3	0	7	88	116	6

Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Madeley Crt C	11	8	0	3	210	68	16
N'port C Grn E	10	8	0	2	137	96	16
N S'mat BC A	11	7	1	3	129	87	15
Dawley C	10	7	0	3	114	90	14
Randlay A	10	5	0	5	96	92	10
Sutton Hill D	11	4	1	6	102	120	9
Dawley E	9	3	0	6	78	135	6
Telford A	10	2	0	8	79	145	4
Sutton Hill C	10	1	0	9	65	177	2

North Shropshire Indoor Cricket League

	P	W	L	P
Wem	5	5	0	25
Woore	4	3	1	15
Shelton	5	3	2	15
Grasshoppers	5	3	2	15
Whitchurch	5	2	3	10
Market Drayton	6	1	5	5
Calverhall	6	1	5	5

Shrewsbury & District Snooker League
Division One

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Harlescott C	12	10	2	43	17	43
Harlescott A	12	10	2	41	19	42
Stanton A	12	10	2	39	21	42
Harlescott F	11	8	3	36	19	37
Unison D	12	7	5	30	30	31
Beaconsfield B	11	4	7	25	30	25
Harlescott B	12	3	9	25	35	25
Beaconsfield A	11	5	5	25	30	25
Meole Brace F	11	3	8	22	33	21
Wem USC	12	3	9	19	41	19
Meole Brace A	12	1	11	14	46	12

Division Two

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Harlescott E	12	9	3	41	19	41
Harlescott D	11	9	2	34	21	35
Meole D	11	8	3	35	20	33
Bagley B	11	7	4	30	25	29
Bagley C	12	7	5	29	31	28
Preston B'hurst A	11	7	4	28	27	28
Unison E	11	5	6	28	27	28
Harlescott G	12	5	7	28	32	28
Bagley A	12	3	9	23	37	22
Old Shrewsbury A	12	2	10	22	38	22
Meole H	11	1	10	17	38	17

Division Three

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Meole Brace G	11	9	2	40	15	38
Unison C	11	10	1	35	20	35
Wem Utd B	9	6	3	30	15	30
Church Stretton A	10	5	5	29	21	28
Wem Conservative A	9	4	5	26	19	26
Meole Brace B	11	6	5	27	28	25
Harlescott Z	11	4	7	20	35	20
Beaconsfield C	10	5	5	20	30	20
Meole Brace E	11	2	9	20	35	18
Harlescott H	11	1	10	13	42	13

JSR Construction Bridgnorth Five-a-Side
Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Grainger & Worr	15	12	0	3	37	18	36
Down Inn	15	9	1	5	28	13	28
GTE Transport	15	7	4	4	16	15	25
Extraction FC	15	7	3	5	22	20	24
B Clee Eagles	15	6	5	4	20	14	23
Alveley	15	5	5	5	21	21	20
Bulldog 2012	16	4	2	10	22	38	14
Brown Clee	14	4	1	9	21	24	13
Assured FC	14	1	3	10	9	33	6

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
The George	14	9	4	1	35	10	31
Bamboo	14	10	0	4	32	15	30
Silverthorne OB	15	7	3	5	27	21	24
Old Castle	14	7	2	5	25	19	23
B Clee Beagles	14	6	5	3	12	8	23
Burwarton Ath	14	6	4	4	24	20	22
Black Horse	15	6	4	5	18	23	22
Fosters Arms	14	5	3	6	19	16	18
The Falcon	14	4	1	9	15	27	13
Golden Lion	13	4	1	8	18	32	13
Claverley	14	2	3	9	13	22	9
DV Roberts	13	3	0	10	22	46	9

Clive & District Billiards

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Marchamley	16	6	2	8	37	27	37
Preston	18	6	6	6	37	35	37
Monty's	16	6	3	7	36	28	36
Stanton	17	7	5	5	35	33	35
Wem Cons	17	7	6	4	35	33	35
Harlescott	17	3	7	7	29	39	29
Clive	17	3	9	5	27	41	27

Marston's Newport & District Pool League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Stag Mkt. Dray	11	11	0	0	55	11	22
Newport Legion	12	11	0	1	58	14	22
Suth'land Arms	11	8	3	0	47	19	19
H'suckle Harr's	11	7	2	2	44	22	16
WWFC	11	7	0	4	37	29	14
H'suckle Hawks	12	5	3	4	43	29	13
King's Head A	12	5	3	4	39	33	13
Wheatsheaf	11	5	2	4	31	35	12
Horns Gnosall	12	4	3	5	35	37	9*
Haberdashers	11	3	2	6	28	38	8
Junction A	11	3	2	6	26	40	8
Junction B	11	2	3	6	24	42	7
King's Head B	11	2	2	7	23	43	6
Pheasant	12	3	1	8	23	49	5*
Royal Navy Club	12	1	2	9	23	49	4
Shakespeare	11	0	0	11	10	56	0

*Horns and Pheasant deducted two points for missing a fixture

Bets.co.uk Newport Singles League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ant Heathcote	12	9	1	2	19	5	19
Greg Heathcote	12	7	4	1	18	6	18
Colin Pink	13	5	8	0	18	8	18
Andy Lewis	12	7	3	2	17	7	17
Ed Keenan	11	6	3	2	15	7	15
Mick Hughes	11	6	3	2	15	7	15
Greg Quinn	13	5	4	4	14	12	14
Ben Longstaff	12	5	3	4	13	11	13
Scott Smith	11	4	5	2	13	9	13
Luke Jones	10	4	4	2	12	8	12
Anthony Allen	10	3	5	2	11	9	11
Charlie Hayward	10	4	2	4	8	10	10
Phil Prinold	11	3	4	4	10	12	10
Jack Jones	12	3	4	5	10	14	10
Mike Jones	11	3	3	5	9	13	9
Russel Porter	11	2	5	4	9	13	9
Paul Lucas	11	2	4	5	8	14	8
Alex Davidson	12	2	4	6	8	16	8
Stu Morrey	13	2	4	7	8	18	8
Adam Stone	12	2	2	8	6	18	6
Dave Bristow	12	1	4	7	6	18	6
Jason Lloyd	12	1	3	8	5	17	4

Bridgnorth Snooker
Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Chelmarsh B	4	3	0	1	14	6	17
Broseley B	4	3	0	1	12	8	15
Shifnal B	4	2	0	2	11	9	13
Bayley A	4	2	0	2	9	11	11
St John's	4	2	0	2	9	11	11
Highley B	4	0	0	4	5	15	5

Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Alveley C	4	4	0	0	13	7	17
Alveley B	3	2	0	1	9	6	11
Highley A	3	1	0	2	8	7	9
Broseley A	3	1	0	2	7	8	8
Chelmarsh D	3	0	0	3	3	12	3

Horsehay & Dawley Licensees Domino League

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Bulls Head B	13	10	3	67	37	67
Queens Head	13	8	5	66	38	66
Bulls Head A	14	8	6	60	52	60
White Horse B	13	8	5	58	46	58
Madeley CC	13	8	5	56	48	56
White Horse A	14	6	8	53	59	53
Elizabethan	14	5	9	45	67	45
Travellers Joy	13	4	9	38	66	38
Forrester	13	3	10	37	67	37

Telford & District Domino League

	P	W	L	P
Bull B	16	46	34	57
Unicorn	16	41	39	50
Queens	16	39	41	47
Randlay	16	39	41	45
Rose & Crown	16	38	42	45
WH A	16	37	43	45
WH B	16	37	43	45
Bull A	15	38	37	44
RBL	15	40	35	42

Market Drayton & District Billiards & Snooker League
Snooker Division 1

	P	W	D	L	P
Newport Lit B	15	12	3	0	48
Raven	15	10	5	0	45
Con Club	15	8	6	1	40
Newport Lit C	15	1	4	5	33
Newport Leg A	15	3	9	3	32
Newport Leg B	15	4	7	4	29
Edgmond B	15	4	7	4	27
Hodnet B	15	3	6	6	24
Marchamley	15	1	6	8	23
Edgmond D	15	3	3	9	22
Hales	15	2	5	8	21
Newport Lit D	15	1	5	9	16

Snooker Division 2

	P	W	D	L	P
Newport Lit A	15	11	3	1	46
Market Drayton Leg A	15	9	4	2	42
Market Drayton Leg B	15	8	3	4	33
Hodnet D	15	5	6	4	32
Market Drayton Leg C	15	6	5	4	31
Market Drayton Leg D	15	5	6	4	31
Hodnet C	15	5	3	7	27
Newport Leg C	15	2	8	5	27
Edgmond A	15	4	5	6	26
Hodnet A	15	4	4	7	26
Edgmond C	15	2	4	9	19
Calverhall	15	2	3	10	19

Billiards Table

	P	W	D	L	P
Hodnet A	14	13	0	1	50
Market Drayton Leg A	14	7	0	7	32
Market Drayton Leg B	14	5	0	9	30
Hodnet B	14	3	0	11	28

Bridgnorth Dominoes
League 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Fosters A	14	8	5	1	66	46	21
Malt Shovel B	14	8	4	2	66	46	20
Chelmarsh SC A	14	7	3	4	62	50	17
Golden Lion	14	6	3	5	58	54	15
AFC A	14	5	5	4	56	56	15
Islanders	14	3	7	4	55	57	13
Goldens	14	5	3	6	54	58	13
Alveley S.C	14	3	5	6	51	61	11
Worfield CC	14	1	6	7	47	65	8
Fosters B	14	3	1	10	45	67	7

League 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Malt Shovel A	12	8	4	0	58	38	20
Bowling Club	12	7	3	2	52	44	17
Woodberry	12	6	2	4	53	43	14
Bylet	13	5	4	4	55	49	14
Rugby Club	13	4	3	6	49	55	11
Royal Oak	12	3	5	4	45	51	11
Chelmarsh B	12	4	2	6	48	48	10
AFC B	13	3	2	8	46	58	8
Duke Of York	13	2	3	8	42	62	7

Llanfair net a huge win in survival fight

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

LLANFAIR United took another step towards Huws Gray Cymru Alliance survival after clinching a crucial 2-1 home success against fellow strugglers Rhayader Town.

After prevailing 3-2 at Mold Alex the week before, United opened up a six point gap on the bottom four teams after making it back-to-back wins for the first time this season.

In a game switched to Newtown's 3G pitch due to recent wet weather, goals either side of half-time from Joe Vaughan and James Davies did the trick.

Christian Jones pulled one back as Rhayader staged a late rally, which saw them denied in a series of goalmouth scrambles while also hitting the woodwork twice. But, despite the late scares, Llanfair held firm to take the spoils and complete the double over their basement rivals.

In the first half, Llanfair had numerous chances to score with a Daniel Jones header from a corner just flying past the post and Davies' diving header also just sailed wide.

Vaughan also threatened with a diving header after he bravely threw himself into a challenge with the goalkeeper and defender, while Davies then went close again but was unable to steer the ball home from a tight angle.

As the game approached half time, Llanfair continued to create the better chances and, in the 44th minute, Davies did well to find space for himself inside the area only to hit the cross bar with his shot.

However, Vaughan brilliantly followed up and headed the rebound into the empty net to spark wild celebrations from the Llanfair side.

United could hardly have started the second half any better by scoring inside the first minute after the break. A Vaughan through ball was badly controlled by a Rhayader defender and Andrew Hughes poked the ball through to Davies who slotted past the keeper to make it 2-0,

Llanfair were looking comfortable and in control but an error by Lee Andrew in goal allowed Rhayader back in the game as Christian Jones placed the loose ball into the net on 70 minutes.

After that, Rhayader came forward with force and created numerous chances themselves but couldn't get an equaliser after missing a glorious chance to equalise at the other end in a mad scramble in which they twice hit the bar.

GUILSFIELD'S challenge suffered a setback after losing 2-1 by lowly Powys rivals Caersws – their fourth home defeat of the season.

After their victory at high flying Caernarfon the week before, the Guils were brought down to earth by their rock bottom visitors.

Dan Barton's men started well enough as they carved some early openings, but Sion Clarke gave Caersws a 22nd minute lead when firing in from Elliot Jones' header.

The home side were back on terms six minutes after the interval when keeper Phil Draper could only help the ball into his own net from Mark Davies' inswinging corner.

They looked the more likely to win, but were unable to convert what chances came their way as Josh Hartrick pounced for the winner on 74 minutes on the break after being released by Jones to give the Bluebirds a lifeline in their survival fight.

Guilsfield remain fifth, but are now seven points off the pace, with defeat giving them plenty to ponder ahead of Saturday's big Welsh Cup fourth round tie with Airbus UK.

Evans hits a hat-trick as three are sent off

TOM Evans fired a hat-trick as Llanrhaeadr maintained their challenge in the Spar Mid Wales League division one with a 4-0 victory at struggling Montgomery.

A scrappy encounter saw three players sent off, including Llan's Ben White, in what proved a comfortable win for the visitors who remain fourth in the table, two points off the top.

Endaf Owens started the scoring on 20 minutes when firing home a cross from Evans, who then opened his account 10 minutes later when breaking through to slot in after Iwan Matthews had flicked on.

White was then harshly sent off for two bookings midway through the second half, but Monty were also reduced to 10 men before falling further behind when Evans launched a fine solo run to weave his way through the defence to fire in.

The scoring was rounded off when Evans converted a last minute penalty to complete his hat-trick, after Monty had their keeper red-carded.

CARNO flexed their muscles with a 5-0 home beating of Aberaeron to consolidate their position among the leading pack.

Andrew Evans scored twice in the first half, with Peter Rees, Adam Williams and Gregg Brown finding the next after the break.

Will Pritchard's brace could not stop **WATERLOO ROVERS** from slipping to a 4-3 defeat at Llandrindod Wells, Scott Holly getting the other.

WELSHPOOL were left kicking their heels as their scheduled trip to to Hay St Mary's fell victim to a waterlogged pitch

Penrhyncoch stayed two points clear at top after Mattie Davies scored the only goal in their 1-0 verdict against Llanidloes Town at Cae Baker.

But In-form Knighton Town remain heard on their heels in second place following a 2-0 success at Bow Street, their ninth win in a row.

Lowly Tyywn Bryncrug eased their basement fears with a 4-2 home success against fellow strugglers Machynlleth,

BERRIEW moved into pole position in the Spar Mid Wales League division two after clinching a vital 3-1 win at one of their close rivals Builth Wells.

With previous leaders Aberystwyth University without any action, the Rhiewsiders took advantage to take over at the summit on goal difference thanks to goals from Jamie Dockerty, Karl Seliaerts and Rich Davies.

CHURCHSTOKE were edged out 3-2 at Newbridge, while Abermule were 2-0 winners against Bont in the division's other action

The wet weather caused four second division games to be called off, including Dyffryn Banw's trip to Borth and Radnor Valley's home meeting with improving Four Crosses.

■ Holders Penrhyncoch have been drawn at home to Radnor Valley in the quarter-final of the league Cup.

The winners of that tie will take on either Llanrhaeadr and Carno in the last four at a neutral venue.

Struggling Montgomery visit Hay St Mary's, with the winners meeting either Knighton Town or Aberaeron.

Quarter-final draw: Penrhyncoch v Radnor Valley, Hay St Mary's v Montgomery, Knighton Town v Aberaeron, Llanrhaeadr v Carno.

In the semi-finals of the E R Jenkins Cup, Abermule will entertain either Borth or Berriew, while Radnor Valley are at home to either Kerry or Bettws.

■ Berriew's Central Wales Cup fourth round clash at home to Llanidloes Town will now be played on Tuesday, February 9 (7.30pm)

Morda no-go

MORDA United were unable to build on the previous week's successful return to action when their JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one clash at home to Caersws Reserves became a victim of the weather. The Weston Road pitch was declared waterlogged after a Saturday morning inspection.

Four-star Ladies move clear

Emily Ridge netted a hat-trick for TNS Ladies against Crusaders: *Picture: Chris Howells.*

UNBEATEN The New Saints Ladies moved three points clear at the top of the West Midlands League premier division after sweeping aside title rivals Crusaders 4-0 at Park Hall.

With a game in hand, they are in a strong position to take the crown after top scorer Emily Ridge led the way with a hat-trick against their second placed visitors, with Lauren Armstrong also on the mark.

Both sides were level on points going into the game with only goal difference separating them, and it was the Saints who made a bright start with chances coming thick and fast.

And their efforts paid off as they were ahead on 18 minutes when Ridge fired home from inside the penalty area to score her 28th goal of the season.

Ridge, who won the league's golden boot last season, added a second goal after a moment of magic in first half injury time with a terrific 25-yard strike that gave the Crusaders goalkeeper no chance as the hosts continued their dominance.

The Shropshire side came out in the second half as they had left the first, moving the ball around to frustrate their opposition who struggled to get hold of the ball.

Midway through the half, the Saints grabbed their third goal with Ridge completing her hat-trick as she chipped the goalkeeper from outside the box to put even more distance between the two sides.

The Saints then put the game to bed in the last minute when Armstrong slotted home from six yards to net her fourth goal for the club in only two games.

"I am absolutely buzzing and can not fault the squad at all," said manager Joe Thompson.

"We have had some tough games this season and always come through. We were excellent today. I don't think Crusaders had much possession in the first 30 minutes but when we needed to battle, scrap and work hard and every player did their part.

"Emily Ridge should be praised and the timing of her second goal was crucial and what a finish it was. The wide players today played their part and played really well. Charlotte Canlett was also excellent today.

"What a great position we have put ourselves in. We're not taking anything for granted, but have put out destiny in our own hands."

TNS Ladies reserves, meanwhile, were knocked out of the Shropshire Women's Cup with a 2-0 first round defeat at Shrewsbury Town Ladies despite a battling performance.

The tie started in end to end fashion with both teams looking to get a foothold in the game and the hosts went close when Tania Prior's free header was saved by Ffion Davies.

The Saints then came to life and created a number of half chances, the best failing to Jemma Smith who was unable to beat Bev Highfield in the Town goal.

The second half saw the Saints have their chances, but a quick break down the left hand saw Shrewsbury take the lead through Charlotte Sewell.

Just five minutes later, Town had added a second when Natasha Broom powered home a header to seal the win.

The Reserves travel to Leek CSOB on Sunday in the Staffordshire Women's League Cup.

Other results

Albrighton Juniors Girls Under-14s 0 TNS Ladies 9 (Harriett Davies (3), Courtney Ashworth (3), Faye Marshall (2) and Marianne Sherwood).

TNS Ladies Under 16 0 Coventry United Ladies Under 16s 3; TNS Ladies Under 18s 5 (Swazie Harris (2), Lauren James, Nicole Hewitt and Taylor Davis) Coventry Under 18s 1.

Town keep up their top form with a 3-0 win

FC OSWESTRY Town remain in good shape for the Mercian Regional League premier division crown after sealing a 3-0 win at FC Hodnet.

Victory kept Town joint top, second on goal difference from Allscott, but they have two games in hand on the league leaders.

Nick Maguire's side settled well in tricky sticky conditions with early chances falling to Paul Bache and Chris Bishop.

And their efforts were rewarded when they took the lead on 20 minutes with a well worked move down the left wing with left back Joe Evans crossing for winger Cal Williams to slot home at the back post.

Wingers Williams and Guy Guilford were causing problems for the home side with help from both full backs Elliot Howes and Joe Evans, and Town captain Ollie Jones bossing the midfield.

However, chances were not converted before, on 35 minutes, Rich Morris released Bishop who calmly slotted past the keeper from 20 yards. After the break Town were still in control of the game but were again struggling to take their opportunities.

But midway through the half, Morris unleashed a 25-yard shot which came back of the bar and was met by the diving Graham Dyke to head home the third and wrap up all three points.

On Saturday, Town turn their thoughts to cup action when they travel to AFC Bridgnorth reserves.

■ FC Oswestry Town Reserves hammered rock bottom Denso 6-1 in their basement showdown at Park Hall in the Mercian Regional League division two.

Matt Coulson scored the first of his goals on five minutes and Town quickly doubled the advantage with Coulson grabbing his second of the game, before Graeme Kirkham added a third with a fine chip from 25 yards.

Chris Roberts then netted his first goal in 15 years to make it 4-0 a 40-yard lob , with Martin Phillips making it five.

Top scorer Harry Dunn extended the lead, before Denso grabbed a consolation with 10 minutes to go, but Town will be in good spirits as they head to Randley on Saturday.

Reed makes the move to Llandudno

STRIKER Jamie Reed has parted company with The New Saints by mutual consent to join Welsh Premier League rivals MBi Llandudno.

Reed signed for TNS in November 2014, but this season joined Aberystwyth on-loan after struggling to cement a first team place at Park Hall before making a permanent move to the North Wales coast.

"Unfortunately it didn't work out as we wanted it to but that's not to say how highly we thought of Jamie when he was here," said TNS manager Craig Harrison.

"He was a model professional throughout his time at the club. It was a pleasure to work with him and I wish him all the best in the future."

Former Wrexham and York City forward Reed, 28, has won Welsh Premier titles with Bangor City and Rhyl and netted 74 goals in 114 league starts.

He signed for Welsh Premier champions The New Saints last season but was sent out on loan to Aberystwyth before being reelsed by the defending champions. Llandudno now becomes Reed's fifth WPL club.

"His track record speaks for itself and obviously a few clubs were in for him, I spoke to Craig Harrison (manager at TNS) and he only had good things to say about him," said Llandudno manager Alan Morgan.

"He wants to be a part of the good work we're doing here and I can't wait for him to pull on the shirt."

Reed began his career at Wrexham and was loaned to Aberystwyth for half a season.

New Saints held in Park Hall stalemate

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints boss Craig Harrison took positives despite the disappointment of his high-flying side being held to a goalless draw by a resilient Gap Connah's Quay at Park Hall.

The recently crowned Word League Cup winners were on top for most part, but failed to prise a way through as they had to settle for a ninth draw of their Dafabet Welsh Premier League campaign.

They had set out for revenge after suffering their first defeat of the season two weeks before when going down 2-0 away to the Nomads.

But, despite having two goals disallowed for offside, the league leaders struggled to find a way through as the encounter ended in a goalless stalemate.

"We drew a game at home which is disappointing without a shadow of doubt, but I haven't felt as bad today as we have in other draws as were never ahead in the game and didn't let a lead slip which is criminal really," said Harrison.

"Today we never really had any threat from them apart from maybe set plays as they've got big strong lads who are going to attack the ball really well.

"But from open play, they weren't a threat at all. They had a couple of shots which our keeper Paul Harrison has dealt with easily, but he's not had to make a save which you wouldn't expect him to make."

Despite the draw leaving his side with a modest return of seven points from their last six outings, Harrison was satisfied with the overall display.

"We've dropped two points but the bigger picture is I thought we played as well as we have done for some time up with our passing, closing down, pressing and decision making up until the final third.

"I think on the flip side as well you've got to give Connah's Quay a lot of credit because they've got a lot of men behind the ball, were organised and were tough to break down, but it's then up to us to meet that challenge head on and get that goal."

Harrison made no changes to the squad that overcame Denbigh Town 2-0 to retain the Word League Cup the week before.

The Saints began well and nearly went in front after 20 minutes when Mike Wilde's header went inches wide of the post with nomads keeper John Danby beaten, while Chris Seargeant fired over the bar from distance. The visitors were at their most dangerous from set plays, and Les Davies went close soon after as the game began to open up.

The second half began with The Saints once again controlling the tempo and possession, but unable to find a way through.

Seargeant and Aeron Edwards both shot wide as TNS began to throw men forward, with Seargeant denied by a smart save from keeper Danby.

With 20 minutes left, TNS twice put the ball into the back of the net, but on both occasions their effort was ruled out for offside. At the other end, Davies had a couple of efforts on goal, but home keeper Paul Harrison kept the ball out comfortably.

The Saints continued to look for the winner, Edwards and sub Scott Quigley both putting late efforts wide, but it never came as Andy Morrison's visitors held on for a battling point.

The draw keeps the Saints six points clear at the top of the Welsh Premier League table after second place Bala Town also drew 1-1 against Newtown thanks to a last-gasp goal from Lee Hunt.

TNS travel south to Barry on Saturday in their bid to defend the Welsh Cup, the tie to be played in front of the S4C cameras (5.15pm kick off).

Olympians are in the running for awards

Olympians' Kelly Clark in action

ONE of the best ever turn-outs for the Oswestry Olympians at the fourth leg of the North Wales Cross Country League in Baschurch ensured that the team and individual runners remain in the hunt for overall prizes.

The excellent showing now means that it promises to be an exciting day at Oswestry's Marches School on Saturday as the Olympians bank on another good turnout for the final meeting of the season. The first race starts at 1:45pm.

Results – Men

1 Shrewsbury 73 points, 2 Oswestry 106, 3 Tattenhall 219 4 Eryri. 302.

Overall Positions: 1 Shrewsbury 479, 2 Oswestry 683, 3 Eryri. 816, 4 Buckley 1162.

Master on day: 1 Oswestry 17, 2 Tattenhall 22, 3 Shrewsbury. 39, 4th. Gog Tri. 57.

Masters overall: 1 Oswestry 136, 2 Buckley 155, 3 Shrewsbury. 165, 4 Colwyn Bay 342.

Ladies

On the day: 1 Oswestry 46, 2 Eryri 61, 3 Denbigh 87, 4 Buckley 100.

Overall: 1 Eryri 185, 2 Oswestry 276, 3 Denbigh 291, 4 Buckley 490.

Ladies Masters in the day: 1 Telford. 17, 2 Oswestry 28, 3 Eryri 32, 4 Buckley 38.

Masters overall: 1 Eryri 86, Oswestry 117, 3 Gog Tri 136, 4 Buckley 158.

Ali Tickner heads for the line

Entries are flooding in for big rally

ENTRIES for the 2016 Mid Wales Stages of the MSA British Rally Championship are flooding in for the Newtown-based event

Organisers have reported receiving a record numbers of entries for the re-vamped rally on March 5-6, having already amassed 60 entrants across the three events which make up this year's rally, significantly up on levels seen at this point in the past.

The rally is based at Theatre Hafren in Newtown and kicks off with two stages totalling over 25 miles under the cover of darkness on Saturday, March 5.

The remaining 43 stage miles are contested on the Sunday, before the Ceremonial Finish greets the successful finishers back in Newtown.

Event regulations are available to download and a full online entry system can be found at www.midwalesstages.co.uk

Coach Dan Samuels goes through some tactics with the Oswestry players ahead of their game with Manchester Medics. *Picture: Martin Ord.*

Eagles' win is just what doctor ordered

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

BUOYANT Oswestry stayed firmly on the title trail in Cheshire South after securing a tense last gasp 8-6 victory over leaders Manchester Medics at Granville Park

Victory avenged their only defeat of the season at the hands of the Medics, lifting them up to second spot, just two points adrift of the leaders with a game in hand.

It was nip and tuck throughout, but strong defence from the hosts ensured the Medics failed to score a try in a game for the first time this season, before Ivor Hughes dived over for a late score to clinch the home victory.

Expectancy was high with the Shropshire club hosting its vice presidents day, and with a bitter wind blowing hard across the field, the hosts were soon on the front foot as they took the game to well-marshalled Medics defence.

The Oswestry men continued their assault, showing the crowd great handling, rucking and clever off loading as scrum half and man-of-the-match Hamish Fuller looked to get the back line into action. The game continued in this vein with both teams attacking and defending their territory well, their all round abilities appearing to cancel each other out.

Despite Oswestry's efforts, it was the Medics who here the first team to score in this gigantic battle, with a penalty well slotted away.

The Eagles responded with some terrific play by Andy Smith's pack on a muddy pitch as they rallied with superb rucks and mauls.

With the forwards playing out of their skins to lay a solid foundation for scrum half Fuller, the Eagles were looking to get the ball in hand, and were rewarded with a penalty converted by Fin Grogan to level matters in an enthralling battle.

With nothing to separate the sides at the break, the Eagles found themselves having to defend early in the second half as the Medics attacked with purpose and ferocity. But the hosts kept their discipline and soaked up the tremendous pressure from this top of the league team.

Time and again mistakes made by both teams to disrupt the flow, with the Eagles digging deep before conceding a second penalty that was converted near to the posts to give the visitors a 6-3 interval lead.

With the Manchester side down to 14 men following a yellow card, the impetus was now with Oswestry who started to attack and push towards the try line.

They were thwarted by determined tackling time and time again, while the Medics also struggled to find any gaps in the home side's defence despite their efforts.

With time running away, it looked like a win for the Medics before the Eagles launched a late salvo after clearing their lines through the boot of Grogan

The Os men captured the ball and started to penetrate from halfway, two quick rucks after fine play by Hamish Fuller found fly half Grogan.

The ball went through the capable hands of Andy Merrett to Gaz Hughes, who provided a quick pass to twin brother Ivor who, from 20 yards out, handed off two defenders to dive over for vital try with only a minute left.

Despite the defeat, the Medics gained the consolation of a losers bonus point to keep them two points clear at the top.

Oswestry II, meanwhile, went down 19-0 at Whitchurch III in the North West League division four south.

COBRA win fourth match on spin

It's mine – COBRA winger Sion Wyn-Williams goes up to catch a high ball in his side's 9-7 victory over Bethesda, with full-back Richard Jones behind.

COBRA continued their stirring revival in the Swalec Welsh League division one (north) with a battling 9-7 home success against Bethesda.

After the previous week's nail-biting 18-17 win at Caernarfon, it proved another closely fought affair as the Meifod men moved further away from the drop zone.

It was their fourth win in a row, and fifth win in their last six outings, as they opened up a healthy 13-point advantage on second bottom Dolgellau. They have now gone above Mold in the table, to sit in a more respectable position at fourth bottom.

A heavy pitch made the going tough, but the hosts had the better of the first half as they made the most of the wind at their backs to carve a 9-0 interval lead.

They forced their way into the Bethesda 22 on a number of occasions, and took advantage with fly-half Llew Williams landing three penalties after the visitors repeatedly killed the ball to frustrate their attacking intentions.

Williams also struck the post with another penalty, but the Llanfair Caerenion side knew they would have to dig deep in the second period if they were to secure another win.

With the elements in their favour, the roles were reversed after the break as Bethesda were often camped in the home 22.

But they were kept at bay by another disciplined defensive display, which has been the hallmark of COBRA's performances in recent weeks.

It was only when they were down to 14 men, after having second row Rhodri Evans sin-binned for not retreating 10 yards from a tap penalty, that the home side were finally breached.

The visitors squeezed over right in the corner five minutes from time as they made their numerical advantage count, and managed to land the testing conversion from wide out to set up a tense finish.

But COBRA were not to be denied, seeing out the latter stages upfield to avoid any alarms as they continued their winning ways.

They take a break from league action on Saturday with a visit to Colwyn Bay in he quarter-finals of the North Wales Plate. Their next league game is a visit to leaders Nant Conwy in two weeks.

COBRA's youngsters are also going well, reeling off their fifth straight win in the North Wales Youth League division two with a 10-8 sucess at Welshpool to avenge a reverse earlier in the season.

They trailed 5-3 at half time, their reply coming from a fine penalty by fly half Will Worthington who planted his kick over the posts from the half way line.

And they got their noses in front after the interval as flanker Bryn Roberts went over for a decisive score, converted by Worthington.

WELSHPOOL'S clash at Anglesey club Benllech in the Swalec League division three (north) was postponed the night before due to a waterlogged pitch.

It meant more frustration for the Maesydre side who have played just once since the turn of the year and whose next scheduled league game is at Rhos on Saturday, February 20.

They have no planned game this weekend, although the club may try to arrange a cup clash with Llandrindod Wells at some stage.

The recent spate of postponements due to weather and clubs struggling to make the long distances have renewed calls for a regional league set up of East and West divisions to reduce the amount of travelling.

Hockey men are back with five star win

OSWESTRY'S hockey players returned to the pitch – and winning ways – as they overcame visitors Newtown 5-2 to boost their prospects in the West Midlands League division one, **writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.**

After having to concede their trip to in-form Redditch the previous week due to lack of numbers, the border side were close again to full strength.

And they ran out convincing winners to put themselves in good spirits for Saturday's trip to Stafford.

They led 1-0 at half-time, with a penalty flick from Gareth Kelshaw opening the scoring after a Newtown defender had stopped the ball with his foot on the line.

John Roberts and Jody Wilson then increased the advantage after the break, but the Powys visitors pulled one back to reduce the arrears.

Chris Holmes and Sam Davies then completed the scoring for the home side, before Newtown gained a consolation goal towards the end.

OSWESTRY LADIES maintained their fine unbeaten run of games in the Cheshire Women's Hockey League division two with a 2-2 draw at lowly Golborne Ladies.

The draw consolidated fifth spot in the league and they now host Deeside Ramblers II on Saturday looking to keep up their encouraging sequence of recent results.

Saints make it four wins on the spin

ST Martins made it four wins in a row during January as they moved up to third in the West Midlands League division one after prevailing 3-2 away to Darlaston.

It has been a terrific spell for the Saints, who have enjoyed their best ever spell of results since their promotion to the league, which also coincided with the appointment of Mike Barton as assistant boss to manager Ryan Butcher.

In that time, they have won some tricky encounters, including runaway leaders AFC Ludlow away a few weeks back, while Darlaston, lying just a few places below, promised to be another tough test.

Both sides had their chances, with the hosts twice hitting the post, but St Martins created the greater opportunities as they ran out deserving winners.

They were ahead on 25 minutes when a short corner on the right was played to Shin Miah who crossed for Jamie Hands to drive a low shot into the net from the edge of the box.

That was how it stayed up to half time, although the visitors felt they had enough chances to have been further ahead at the break.

But they doubled the lead five minutes into the second period when Shawn Melusi crossed from the left for Karl Bailey to finish off.

Darlaston hit back to rescue the arrears on 70 minutes, but from their next attack the Saints restored their two goal cushion with the goal of the game as Melusi smashed home an unstoppable volley.

The home side were back in the hunt after grabbing a second goal following some slack defending to make for a tense finish, but the visitors held firm to ensure their winning run continued.

Still in with a chance of promotion, they look to keep up the good work at home to Kington Town on Saturday.

Sport

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Rugby
Medics win just what doctor ordered – P39

CLASH OF THE TITANS IN CUP

TWO of the big names of domestic Welsh football meet for the first time in over a decade on Saturday when holders The New Saints head to Barry Town United in the Welsh Cup.

Barry were the dominant force in the then League of Wales in the mid-1990s and early 2000s, only to suffer a spectacular fall from grace as the Saints emerged as the side to beat in recent times.

Now the two clubs come face to face again for the first time in almost 12 years with TNS travelling to Jenner Park in the last 16 of the Welsh Cup, in a game to be screened live on S4C (5.15pm).

It promises to be an intriguing affair between the once all-conquering Barry and the current Welsh Premier champions and treble winners.

Both clubs have remarkable records in domestic Welsh football, with Barry winning seven league crowns, six Welsh Cups and four league cups.

But TNS who now have nine league titles to their names, five Welsh Cup triumphs and seven league cups, the most recent coming just a few weeks back when they beat Denbigh Town 2-0 in the final at Llandudno.

This weekend's rivals last met back on February 28, 2004 when TNS ran out 3-0 winners at their then home in Llansantffraid.

Record

Saturday's encounter will evoke memories of the famous 1996 Welsh Cup final between the sides when TNS (then Llansantffraid) lifted the trophy on penalties after extra time at the old Cardiff Arms Park ended 3-3.

Barry, now third in Welsh League division one, are enjoying better fortunes of late and progressed in the cup with a 6-1 hammering of Denbigh Town in which James Dixon struck a cup record five goals.

Saints boss Craig Harrison knows his side will have to be on their mettle, despite being clear favourites against a side a tier below.

"We definitely won't be treating Barry lightly," he said. "You just have to look at Denbigh Town, who reached the final of the Word Cup this season – sides from lower league can do well.

"They've got a good coach in Gavin Chesterfield who will have them well organised, so it's important we prepare well.

"I've heard a lot of stories about Barry Town, so it should be an interesting tie.

"The Welsh Cup is a fantastic competition. It would be nice to win it again,"

The Saints go into the match on the back of last week's 0-0 draw with Gap Connah's Quay, that saw them remain six points clear at the top of the Welsh Premier.

Harrison admitted his disappointment, but added: "I felt we played as well as we have done for some time, right up to the final third when we couldn't quite get over the line.

"Getting a clean sheet was also a positive as we have been conceding goals in the league lately."

Big win boosts Llanfair hopes

Oh yes – Llanfair's Joe Vaughan (left) and scorer of the second goal James Davies celebrate first goal of the game against Rhayader Town. Picture: Jonathan Richards.

BOSS Rhys Stephens says his Llanfair United side will be doing their utmost to remain in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance this season as they chase their third victory in a row at Gresford Athletic on Saturday.

United made it back-to-back wins for the first time in the league after clinching a crucial 2-1 success at home to another of the league strugglers Rhayader Town last weekend to boost their hopes of survival.

But they now face a big task away to a Gresford side that ran out comfortable 4-1 winners in the Huws Gray League Cup just last month.

However, Llanfair can take heart from recent displays that have seen them move up to fifth from bottom, and six points clear of the bottom four clubs.

"We've now had two games against two of our relegation rivals and picked up six points, which is massive for us," said Stephens.

"It was a good display from one to 11 against Rhayader, and gives us real hope. But we're not getting carried away, just like we don't get too down when we lose as things can quickly change.

"But we're doing as much as we can to stay up, and last week was the first time we have won two games on the bounce.

"At 2-0 up we were looking comfortable, but when they got one back, it all changed and we had to defend for our lives after that.

"We were just hanging on at the end, they twice hit the bar, had shots cleared off the line, but over the 90 minutes I felt we deserved to win."

Another victory would take Llanfair closer to safety, but Stephens knows points will be hard-earned on Saturday away to Gresford who also won in the league when the sides met earlier this season.

"We've now got a tough game against Gresford who have given us a couple of beatings this season, 3-0 in the league and 4-1 in the league cup," he said.

"But we won't be going there looking to shut up shop, we'll be going all out to win the game."

Biggest game of the season for Guilsfield

GUILSFIELD are gearing up for their biggest outing of the season when they host Airbus UK Broughton in the fourth round of the Welsh Cup on Saturday (2.30pm).

With a place in the quarter-finals at stake, the villagers will be going all out to upset the odds against the Welsh Premier high fliers.

And the Cymru Alliance outfit will have to forget last weekend's disappointing 2-1 Powys derby reverse at the hands of struggling Caersws that dampened their spirits after a run of excellent results

"After going so well, that result knocked the stuffing out of us," admitted manager Dan Barton.

"Perhaps some of the players had minds on other things, perhaps a bit of complacency crept in. But it was disappointing after our win at leaders Caernarfon the week before.

"You can afford to carry one or two, but not four or five, which was the case last week, and no-one can be sure of their place in the team for Saturday.

"We had a bit of bad luck, we had some half-chances but did not take them, but Caersws fought hard, and to their credit won most first and second balls.

"Had we won, we would have been right in the mix for the title, which makes it all the more disappointing."

Central defender James Henderson is back to bolster the ranks after missing last week as Barton ponders his line-up.

The Guils will have their sights set on another cup shock after famously defeating Airbus 3-2 after extra time in the second round at Clos Mytton back in October 2007.

Just two players from that day survive, captain Gareth Jones – who scored one of the goals – and goalkeeper Dave Littleford. That year, the Guils went on to reach the last eight before bowing out to eventual winners Bangor City.

Barton is relishing the tie. "We are the clear underdogs," he said. "But we're at home and hopefully we can get a good crowd to get behind us."

Rawlings blows hot for Welshpool win

HEAVY rain and high winds prevented any play on Tuesday at Welshpool Golf Club – but 25 hardy golfers braved 25mph winds and rain on Thursday in a seniors event won by Stan Rawlings

Rawlings (19) won the fifth round of the Winter League with 26 points in a 12 hole event, four points ahead of second placed Peter Dixon(22), who edged out Neil (Dibby) Davies on the countback.

On Saturday, the fourth round of the Winter League saw more stormy weather and Carwyn Jones (15) won with a fine 28 points. Mark Bell (11) was second on countback with 24 points from Richard Templeton also scoring 24 points.

On Sunday, a grim forecast, comprising heavy rain and strong to gale force winds, saw a diminished gathering of the foolhardy competing in the "Dai Ellis Cup" Rabbits and Tigers event.

The captain's team comprising John Morley, Clive Jones and Rob Williams triumphed with 66 points over Dai Ellis, Sean Davies and Steve Day with 62.

Eagles look for bonus in title pursuit

OSWESTRY'S rugby players will look to turn up the Cheshire South title heat when they entertain rock-bottom Knutsford in Saturday's rearranged clash at Granville Park (2.15pm).

The Eagles are in good shape, boosting their title prospects with a hard-fought 8-6 win at home to high-flying Manchester Medics last weekend to avenge their only defeat of the season.

That victory, thanks to a late try from Ivor Hughes, lifted them up to second place in the table, just two points behind the Medics and with a game in hand.

With the leaders also facing a trip to lowly opposition in Congleton, Oswestry will look for a bonus point victory to stay on course for the league crown.

Despite last week's defeat, in which they failed to score a try for the first time this season, the Medics did gain a losers' bonus point to have a two-point lead at the top.

Across the border, COBRA reeled off their fourth win in a row – and fifth in six – to continue their climb to safety in the Swalec Welsh League division one (north). A 9-7 success over Bethesda in heavy conditions put them fourth-bottom, 13 points above the drop zone.

They take a break from league action on Saturday with a trip to second division promotion chasers Colwyn Bay in the quarter-finals of the North Wales Plate. Their next league game is a visit to leaders Nant Conwy in two weeks.

WELSHPOOL's clash at Benllech in division three (north) was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. The Maesydre side have played just once since the turn of the year and their next scheduled league game is at home to Rhos on Saturday, February 20.

Llan march on in Central Wales Cup

TWO goals from Kieran Evans kept Llanrhaeadr on the trail of the Central Wales Cup with a 2-1 third round victory at holders Caersws.

Llan, who have already booked their place in the quarter-finals of the FAW Trophy, will now visit Machynlleh on Saturday in the fourth round.

All the goals came in the first half of Tuesday night's tie, with Evans opening his account for the Spar Mid Wales League side.

Former Montgomery and Berriew forward Elliot Jones fired Cymru Alliance strugglers Caersws level, but the visitors were soon back in front when Kieran Evans notched his second.

Meanwhile, boss Dave Jones says there's plenty of work to do in Berriew's title chase despite his side moving top of Spar Mid Wales League division two.

Their 3-1 win over Builth Wells took the Rhiewsiders to the summit on goal difference from Aberystwyth University, and they have a game in hand.

But it's still all to play for according to Jones, whose side head to Presteigne on Saturday who said: "We're top of the league, but have tricky games left."

In division one's Saturday games, Waterloo Rovers host in-form Knighton Town who are chasing their 10th win on the bounce, while struggling Montgomery also face a tough ask at unbeaten leaders Penrhyncoch.

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